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ABSTRACT

Papers on network activity among university and other general research libraries and information centers presented at the 1982 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference include: (1) "The Principles of the Relationship Between National and University Library Collections as a Basis for a Network" by K. W. Humphreys (United Kingdom); (2) "Network Services Designed to Serve Research Libraries: The Current State of Development" by Richard M. Dougherty (United States); (3) "Approaches to Coordination of Resources and Services in Southeast Asian Libraries and Information Centers" by Jacques Valls and Daruna Somboonkun (Thailand); (4) "The Development of Special Collections: Problems of Constructing Networks" by Brenda E. Moon (United Kingdom), which describes the British "Background Materials Scheme" and other examples of library cooperation in the building of special collections; (5) "Standards and Normatives of Libraries of Higher Educational Institutions of the USSR" by N. S. Avalova; (6) "Regional Networks and the System of Supra-Regional Resource Sharing in the Federal Republic of Germany: Some Problems of Planning and Realization" by Gunter Gattermann, which discusses the special features of academic library network development in Germany; and (7) "The Development of Library and Information System of the Chinese Academy of Sciences" by Jian Shi and Lizhong Yan (People's Republic of China). (ESR)

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PAPERS

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The principles of the relationship between National and University Library collections ans a basis for a Network

by

HUMPHREYS K.W. (United Kingdom)

'I think a city comes to be', said Socrates, 'because not one of us is self-sufficient, but needs many things'.

Plato, Republic, Book II.

I think a network also comes into existence because we are none of us self-sufficient. It has become increasingly evident over the past twenty years that we need to depend on one another both at the national and international levels.

Here I am concerned with a single aspect of this need for co-operation, i.e. in access to research materials within a country. It may be objected that in considering the research materials of a nation there are collections which are often equally important with university libraries. The rich accretions of the monastic libraries at the end of the eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries to public libraries in France or Italy and to certain state (but not National) libraries like the Laurenziana in Florence have had the effect of creating research collections in the humanities as an essential part of a nation's heritage. However in this paper I must leave these aside as I shall be treating of those libraries which receive most, if not all, of their funds from the central government(1). In general, public libraries, many state libraries (e.g. in Australia) and special libraries are funded from sources other than the government(2). It may be asserted that where the nation is responsible for funding certain library services their resources should be considered as a national asset. This was stated by the Committee on Libraries set up by the British University Grants Committee(3) in recommending that full coverage of foreign materials should be achieved either by a national library alone or in combination with specialist and university libraries. 'We think it important that the collections of all these libraries should be regarded as national resources'.

Unfortunately there is little legislative evidence to support this statement. Some National Libraries are required to make their collections available by consultation or by inter-library loan to anyone in need of their services. The National Diet Library in Japan, for example[4], is authorised 'to make the collections of the Library available for public use and study either in the National Diet Library Building or by inter-library loan or through copying services...'. Other National libraries may be assumed to have this responsibility although their laws (where they exist) rarely state this explicitly.

University libraries, on the other hand, have no such duty laid upon them. Usually they have entered inter-library lending schemes and co-operative acquisition programmes to obtain reciprocal benefits. This has been sometimes in opposition to the views of some professors. The autonomy of universities in the past and even today has militated against participation in any plan which could appear to reduce a university's powers or perhaps, more specifically, the powers of deans and professors. In this connection it is necessary to spend a few minutes on the vexed question of centralised or decentralised university collections. Although there has been a growing understanding in recent years of the advantages of co-operation between the Central and Faculty or Departmental libraries, at least in the compilation of union catalogues and universal access to collections, there are still many universities in the world where the Central library is still funded and administered separately from those outside. There can even be universities[5] where there is no Central library but only Faculty and Departmental libraries. In these circumstances of course, the university librarian (if one exists) can only commit the Central library, which sometimes represents only a fraction of the total resources of the university, to any co-operative project. This obviously does not augur well for any schemes of sharing services or resources.

Another barrier to co-operation which may or may not depend on the situation outlined above is that restrictions are placed upon some librarians in the administration of their purchasing funds. A great deal of the responsibility for book selection may be placed in the hands of the teaching staff. In Japanese university libraries a few years ago only 1.9% of books purchased had been selected by the library staffs(6). Clearly therefore the teaching staff would feel a possessiveness about items they had acquired and could easily regard them as 'my books', a phrase which must have been heard at times by many librarians. The idea that such books could be considered as part of a national resource would be anathema to many professors.

It should be a principle that the need for the national co-ordination of resources must over-rule autonomy. The extent to which university authorities will be prepared to surrender some portion of their autonomy in respect of the library may affect their degrees of participation in a network.

Any networking system should have as its aim the improvement of services to the user. It follows from this in our present context that its purpose should be to provide for consultation and/or by inter-library loan any item of library material a reader will need. This necessitates an attempt to make available within a country publications on all subjects from every part of the world. Fortunately, nationally, we do not need to be entirely self-sufficient as our resources can be supplemented by international inter-library loan services which, with the impetus of IFLA's Universal Access to Publications (UAP) programme, are rapidly improving. Nonetheless we cannot rely too heavily on this service. Even if items are available from distant parts of the world, the long delays in receiving loans will diminish the advantages of inter-library lending. We know

too that material cannot be obtained from many countries which have not so far been able to develop a system.

What kind of network, therefore, will satisfy our needs - availability of resources by sharing and spreading the coverage of acquisitions policies backed up by an efficient location system for inter-library lending or for consultation? The system may be based on union catalogues or not, depending to a great extent on the methods used for subject coverage. There must be differences in approach according to the size of the country and whether it is a poor or rich (i.e. developing or developed) nation.

In a large country there could be two levels of provision, one regional and the other national. One can imagine that in the United States, Canada and Australia the first priority may be to make co-operative use of all the resources in a State, including every type of library; the National Library and universities would supply those materials which were not otherwise available in any one State. In the Soviet Union the resources of libraries in each Republic are treated as one unit from the point of view of the user.

On the other hand a small country, even if developed like Finland or developing like Papua New Guinea, would have too few university libraries to combine with a National Library (should it exist) to be able to formulate any co-operative plan. The National Library may be required to act as a regional, public or even university library - or vice-versa; examples are - the Danish Royal Library which is also the humanities library of the University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University is a regional library for the public generally, Helsinki University Library is also the National Library, and in Jerusalem one library serves three purposes -

as a National Library, as a university library and as the world centre for Jewish literature. Where such situations exist there may be little opportunity for any scheme of co-operative acquisition. Of course we could say that small countries will have small populations and that therefore the demands of users will be less numerous and perhaps also less wide-ranging. There may be a case for such countries to combine their efforts for a more complete coverage of literature with their neighbours, as has been done in Scandinavia with the Scandia Plan. From this one might well argue that in principle a small country will need to look outside its borders for assistance, preferably in co-operation with its neighbours.

In other countries where there are many universities and at least one National Library some efforts have been made in the past to try to be self-sufficient in the country as a whole - at least in recent material. We were all impressed twenty years ago by the dimensions and scale of the now defunct Farmington Plan(7). It seemed at the time a shining example of what could be achieved by voluntary co-operation without separate national funding. Certainly it inspired British librarians to emulate their comparatively wealthy American colleagues, but on a very restricted level. The Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (SCONUL) initiated a scheme for the collection of Russian and East European publications, for those from Latin America and later for Oriental and Far Eastern items. An autonomous group, composed mainly of SCONUL members, the Standing Conference on Library Materials from Africa (SCOLMA), as its name implies, occupied itself with the problems of acquiring publications from the African continent. In each case individual libraries undertook to purchase, as far as was financially possible, items from or about a particular country or region. Considerable progress was made in acquisitions policies for some time, but with the reduction of budgets the schemes have lost their impact.

The Scandia Plan is not of course a single national scheme for co-operation between National and university libraries only, but it has some lessons for our present purpose. Its aim, according to the new statutes of 1973 'is to develop rational and economic forms of co-operation in the field of literature acquisition and related information service ... in the Nordic countries'. There are significant points to be noted in connection with the scheme. Firstly it was a voluntary association of libraries, secondly it had no outside funds to support it and thirdly the plan did not include the most used literature which libraries were expected to purchase for local needs. Financial support has now come from the Nordic Council of Ministers through the organization NORDINFO (the Nordic Council for Scientific Information and Research Libraries). Although it now has an inter-governmental structure it must be emphasized that its success is based on the original spirit of voluntary co-operation(8).

The outstanding co-operative acquisition policy which has had considerable success is that financed by the German Research Society (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), or by the central government, in which some centres, e.g. Cologne for medicine or Kiel for economics, have accepted wide responsibilities for subject areas whilst others have developed, more extensively than their own resources would have allowed, certain aspects of subjects, languages, or areas and regions. The most significant features of this scheme(9) (Sondersammelgebietsplan) is that funds were available for libraries to meet the extra costs in purchases and of staff involved in fulfilling their obligations. This emphasizes my view that in principle all co-operative schemes should be separately funded or 'If a library has undertaken to be the major resource for a particular subject in one region or country, then special provision must be made over and above the normal allocation for maintaining the service'(10), that is, not only purchase grants, but also recompense for salaries of staff affected by this responsibility.

The schemes mentioned so far have largely been concerned with current material, yet for humanists earlier publications are important and should be covered by the network. A plan sponsored by the Joint Standing Committee on Library Co-operation in Britain allocated periods to libraries within which they purchased not primary but secondary literature to be available on inter-library loan. Over forty libraries collaborated and some 11,000 British books printed/published from the earliest times to about 1900 were collected and recorded in a union list now at the British Library. Unfortunately no statistics are available on the use made of this collection. The British Library can use its finances to subsidize the cataloguing and maintenance of books, including early printed books, in other collections in the country.

The question arises as to whether a method for increasing the coverage of national resources should be centralised or decentralised. The German schemes are based on decentralisation; the major libraries, e.g. the Bavarian State Library and the "national" libraries in Berlin and Frankfurt together with university Libraries and other designated special collections, making up the network for access to the total scholarly national resources. On the other hand, Britain has in its British Library Lending Division a centralised collection set up specifically for inter-library lending, although it must be pointed out that it has accepted some degree of decentralisation in that it pays a number of libraries with special collections for the contributions they make to the loan system(11).

The British arrangement has been highly (and rightly) praised but the high cost of installing such a library as that at Boston Spa might well deter other countries from emulating it. Alternatively, it might be argued that a decentralised system may be as expensive, but this is difficult to calculate as so many of the costs (e.g. buildings, staff are hidden. Personally I have always been an advocate of building on

strengths in individual libraries where there are academic and library staffs expert in the subject. There is always the danger that in times of financial crisis a government might find it necessary to reduce its support for the centralised organization.

The major question which arises in considering the relationship between National and university library collections in a network was posed by Maurice and Joyce Line in their volume of essays on National Libraries[12]. 'How far should the National Library be responsible for planning and managing the nation's library resources? Should its leadership be confined to pre-eminence and example, or should it devise policies and supervise their carrying out? If this is not the rôle of the National Library, by what sort of body should it be carried out, and should such a body have some control also over the National Library?'

There would seem to be two possible answers to the questions. Perhaps for developing countries the National Library should take the lead, whereas in those countries with long-established libraries the solutions may be different. At the Manila Conference on National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area in 1964 it was stated that 'the national library must assume responsibility for initiating and promoting co-operation between itself and other libraries nationally, regionally and internationally ... A primary task is the planned acquisition of foreign literature based on a policy of national co-ordination[13]'. The International Conference of Directors of National Libraries on resource sharing in Asia and Oceania at Canberra in 1979 proposed that 'Governments should enable National Libraries to ensure through international resource sharing (a) that adequate international collections of library materials are available in the humanities and the arts, the social sciences and science and technology (but not necessarily within the National Library)'[14].

In answer to a questionnaire on the rôle of National Libraries in 1978 thirteen countries indicated that their National Library was the focal point for promoting and maintaining nation-wide resource sharing networks. Most of the thirteen had several different classes of library participating but ten referred specifically to university libraries - these were Australia, Austria, Canada, the Republic of China, France, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Thailand. The respondent librarians must have understood the question in a very general way since, so far as I can gather, none of these countries has any formal structure for co-operative acquisition or for other aspects of the control by the National Library of library collections. In the Philippines, for example, 'the sharing of holdings among the university and college libraries in the Metro-Manila has been increasingly accepted as a necessity and as a realistic means of providing the full range of materials needed for education and scholarly research'(15). The National Library and Documentation Centre Consortium (NLDC - Consortium) with five members - Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia - has as one of its objectives 'to promote and co-ordinate the acquisition within each country of library materials of the region deemed to be of continuing importance'(16).

My impression from personal visits, reading the professional literature and correspondence with national librarians is that there are very few countries where there is, despite NATIS, a truly structural national library system. In many developing countries, in part faut de mieux, the National Librarian is expected to take the lead or, as in some centrally organized countries (e.g. Bulgaria and Poland) he is required to have responsibility for the country's library resources. In others there may be some framework for action. In New Zealand for example 'The co-ordination of library resources is organized on a voluntary and advisory basis, which cannot be developed without better facilities for consultation' - a situation, I am sure, which is not unusual. However 'the

Trustees of the National Library have set up the New Zealand Library Resources Committee, in terms of Section 14 of the National Library Act 1965, providing a general forum for discussion of resources needs. This Committee also controls an annual sum of about $35,000, from which grants are made to support national resource collections outside the National Library.

Libraries with subject strengths may request grants for expensive items not already held in New Zealand, and which would add significantly to their existing collections. Such items must then be available on interloan as a national resource.

Information on expensive publications - their existence, plans to purchase or actual possession - is exchanged in the Expensive Materials Bulletin published by the National Library'[17]. It should be noted that the work of the Committee is closely integrated with the Vice-Chancellors' Standing Committee on Library Resources[18].

Unless the National Librarian is required by legislation to concern himself with his country's library resources either he should himself activate a scheme of co-operation, or he should stimulate university librarians (if they have not done so) to undertake the co-ordination of resource sharing with special reference to the development and utilization of collections. So far as possible any scheme should be built on existing organizations or voluntary consortia. Developments in the planning of library activities must be 'welcomed and must to some estent satisfy the legitimate self-interests of the parties participating' and 'a healthy infrastructure depends ultimately upon genuine concern and involvement, which no administrative or legislative edict can in itself achieve'[19]. Esko Häkli emphasises the point that NORDINFO 'has enjoyed all the advantages that voluntary co-operation has created ... without voluntary co-operation we would have no co-operation at all today, either official or unofficial'[20]..

This highly sensitive aspect of co-operation is of vital importance in considering any kind of official or semi-official co-ordination of library resources. If university libraries are to give their full support to a system they must be involved in the planning and execution of any programme. A committee or commission charged with responsibility for co-ordination and indeed rationalization of library collections would need to be outside a hierarchy with the National Library as its apex. It should include the National Library within its membership as an equal, or perhaps the National Librarian should be 'primus inter pares'. It should have a separate grant from the government to give financial assistance in the acquisition of materials and in paying for the cost of extra staff as well as for the additional services called for by virtue of participation. All members should be consulted on changes of policy even if this is through representatives on the committee or commission; any university authority would have the right to participate or not. It should formulate national policies for national and university libraries receiving government funding and supervise the activities of a network.

In reply to one of the questions in a questionnaire I sent to National Librarians, several wrote that they would welcome a committee of this kind, with librarians and academics as members: they included Belgium, Finland, Israel, Japan, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa and Switzerland.

Even where a country has a centralised service some organization of this kind is necessary in order that university librarians may participate in decision-making concerned with the utilization of scarce resources (money and man-power). Under this type of system there is no possibility of governments or the National Librarian imposing conditions on the running of university libraries. Librarians could join freely in national plans without any appreciable loss of

autonomy by their universities. They will reap the benefits for their members of access to greater resources in books, periodicals and information services and it is to be hoped that 'our academic colleagues will recognize that there is more to be gained than lost as a result of pooling of resources and the accompanying availability of public funds for the purpose'[21].

Finally let us attempt to suggest some principles which have arisen in the course of the preceding discussion:-

1. Any networking system should have as its aim the improvement of services to the user. It follows that he will be best served if he has access to a number of library collections.

2. Where a nation is responsible for funding certain library services the resources of those libraries should be considered as a national asset.

3. The co-ordination of such resources for a networking system must over-rule the autonomy (if only to a limited extent) of individual libraries and their authorities.

4. A co-operative acquisitions policy to increase the resources of a country as a basis for a network should be implemented with funds for all expenses incurred - purchases, staff and services.

5. In developing countries the National Librarian should have responsibility for initiating a scheme for the co-operative development and use of National and university library collections.

6. Any formal network scheme for the co-ordination of National and university library collections should be based when possible on existing arrangements.

7. Even within an official co-ordinating structure for networking, participation should be, so far as may be appropriate, on a voluntary basis.

8. The machinery for establishing and maintaining a network system based on sharing the use of library collections should give equal opportunities to those who participate to make decisions affecting the distribution of funds and the formulation of policies at the national level.

9. All the collections in a university should be recorded centrally and available for consultation and/or loan on the same basis as collections in the central university library, in order to make the fullest contribution to any networking system.

10. A network based on the collections of National and university libraries should bear in mind the need for earlier printed material as well as current publications.

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Network Services Designed to Serve Research Libraries: The Current State of Development

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Network Services Designed to Serve Research Libraries: The Current State of Development

by Richard M. Dougherty

The emergence of computer-based networks has provided new opportunities for library cooperation. These new networks, however, have also presented obstacles to interlibrary cooperation. This paper examines both the precursors of current collaborative endeavors along with the more recent unique ventures that are influencing the direction and shape of research library networks.

Research libraries in the United States can point with pride to a long and distinguished record of cooperation. Beginning with the Farmington acquisitions plan following World War II, when they banded together to acquire western European materials, research libraries have actively participated in numerous collaborative efforts. In more recent years, numerous examples could be cited; for example, the general endorsement of Mansell's Pre-1956 National Union Catalog publication and the current participation in the Library of Congress's Name Authority Cooperative.

The Association of Research Libraries has played a key role in a number of programs. ARL was instrumental in coordinating the microfilming of dissertations and the development of Dissertation Abstracts International.[1] The Association's influence was also evident in its lobbying for Congressional funding of the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging (NPAC).[2]

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[1]McGowan, Frank M., The Association of Research Libraries, 1932-1962 (Ann Arbor, Mich., University Microfilms, 1973), pp. 98-111.

[2]Association of Research Libraries, Minutes of the Meeting, 66th and 67th (Princeton, N.J.: Association of Research Libraries, 1965 and 1966).

These and other projects would not have been possible were it not for the leadership afforded by ARL which has served the collective interests of North American research libraries for the last fifty years.

The current focus on library cooperation utilizing networks has been stimulated by the growing capabilities of computer technology and the declining financial resources available to libraries. No longer can anyone seriously question the central role technology will play as libraries work to share more information more rapidly, and there is a growing realization that research libraries must adopt new strategies for conducting operations if they are to continue meeting their traditional institutional goals. Our success in employing these new strategies is dependent to a great extend on our ability to cooperate, and it is the economic forces buffeting libraries which present the compelling mandate for cooperation.

In the last few years progress toward creating a nation-wide network has been modest yet paradoxically at the same time quite impressive. In discussing networking among libraries, one must remember that the United States networking community is extremely pluralistic in composition. The community is diverse and it is rare when one can achieve general agreement on a substantive issue. Moreover, the public (non-profit) and private (profit) sectors do not agree on most policy issues concerning the economics of information. Competing interests, exist and there is a constant worry among librarians concerning ownership and control of information and the power associated with such control. Consequently, in view of the complex social and political environment in the United States, the progress documented over the last decade has been quite remarkable.

A decade ago most university libraries joining OCLC did so in order to benefit from the economies of shared, computer-based cataloging. They were looking for a means to accomplish a specific job more cheaply. Gradually, libraries began to rely on OCLC's data base as a vehicle for obtaining information about library materials they did not own locally.

As librarians gained experience in the use of computer-based networks, they began to understand how these systems might also be used to support programs such as collection development and preservation. In fact, the formation of the Research Libraries Group in 1974 was intended to use computer technology to support a range of library activities beyond cataloging and searching functions.[3] The RLG membership undertook programs to address collectively their mutual concerns: collection management and development, including specific subject areas with special needs (art, music, law, East Asian studies), preservation, and resource sharing.

Let us turn our attention to a brief look at the organizations that have played and continue to play the major roles in network development in the United States.

The Library of Congress

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science's (NCLIS) report urging the creation of a national bibliographic network was a seminal

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[3]Research Libraries Group, Inc., 1980: The Year in Review (Palo Alto, Calif.: Research Libraries Group, 1981), p. 9.

document in network development.[4] The NCLIS report stimulated much discussion on networking throughout the United States library community. Although it was not clear how best to proceed toward a unitary national network, one point was clear, namely that the Library of Congress would have to play a central role. From the beginning, LC has recognized its special responsibility, and in this vein, the Librarian of Congress, Daniel Boorstin, appointed a committee to advise LC in its automation efforts and to outline the parameters of a national network.[5] This advisory group became known as the Network Advisory Group (NAG) with a membership consisting of representatives from most sectors of the library and information community. Representative networks, the information industry, the publishing industry, governmental agencies, and private foundations were invited to participate, contribute their ideas, and share their concerns. The Network Advisory Committee, the Advisory Group's later name, continues to function as a forum for the discussion of broadly-based issues related to the development, funding and governance of networks.

The Library of Congress is at the forefront of computer applications and systems development. It already relies on sophisticated computer systems to support its internal operations. The availability of these systems enabled LC to close its card catalog January 1, 1981 and to begin the transformation from card-based to computer-based catalogs.

LC continues to seek ways to involve research libraries directly in the process of cataloging and bibliographic record authentication. Officials of

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[4]U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, Toward a National Program for Library and Information Services (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1975).

[5]U.S. Library of Congress, Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress, 1977 (Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1978), p. 5.

the Library of Congress recognized several years ago that research libraries could hope to achieve the goal of a comprehensive bibliographical data base only through a system of decentralized participation. This decentralized strategy is currently exemplified by the Conversion of Serials (CONSER) and the Name Authorities Cooperative (NACO) projects.

Librarians in the United States have occasionally voiced impatience with LC for its seeming lack of movement in pursuing the priorities of librarians. They sometimes forget that LC, as its name implies, has a primary responsibility to its Congressional constituency, while endeavoring to serve the rest of the nation as a national library. It must split its time, energies, and resources between these two principal and occasionally conflicting missions. In the case of network development, until recently Congress placed restraints on the way the Library of Congess was allowed to utilize its computers in order to share data. In spite of these Congressionally-imposed roadblocks, LC has maintained its role as a national leader in network development. There are now indications that LC will be able to become even more active in national network development activities.

Council on Library Resources, Incorporated

The Council on Library Resources, (CLR), under the perceptive leadership of Warren J. Haas, convinced a group of private foundation officers to underwrite a series of network related research and development projects. The program is now known as the Bibliographical Services Development Program (BSDP) and is capably directed by C. Lee Jones. Projects have been funded to develop specifications for a functional network-level name authority control

system. Also funded is a project to design a standard computer protocol to facilitate linkage of bibliographical utilities such as OCLC and RLG/RLIN.

CLR is currently funding a project to identify and clarify issues related to on-line catalogs. The objective is to learn more about the needs of users, their reactions to on-line catalogs, and how these needs can be matched to the available technologies. Ultimately, local catalogs will be linked to regional and national data bases so that users will have access to on-line catalogs supporting local collections, as well as information about the holdings of other research libraries.

OCLC, Incorporated

The success story of OCLC, Incorporated, is well-known; there is no need to recount it. OCLC serves more than 2,500 libraries with an extensive concentration of computers which supports over 5,000 terminals. In addition to its cataloging and interlibrary loan modules, OCLC now offers support for serials and acquisitions systems.

Although research libraries have traditionally played an important role in OCLC, research librarians have not dominated it. This is understandable since research libraries comprise only a small proportion of the total membership. It is this membership diversity that led some academic librarians to press for a greater voice in OCLC, and in 1980 a group of academic librarians created OCLC's Research Library Advisory Council. The expressed purpose of this new committee was to focus more attention on the special needs of research libraries.

The Research Libraries Group

The roots of the Research Libraries Group can be traced to a consortium consisting of the libraries of four institutions: Columbia University, Yale University, the Research Library of the New York Public Library, and Harvard University. The consortium was launched in 1974 in order to develop cooperative programs which would link together the four libraries. A common computer system would serve as the linkage mechanism. After a thorough study, RLG decided against developing its own computer system and instead adopted a system developed at Stanford University. Harvard subsequently withdrew from the consortium in 1975, and Stanford replaced it as the fourth member. Shortly thereafter, RLG was reconstituted and other research libraries were invited to join as full partners. In the last three years the membership has grown from four libraries to twenty-six full members.

Washington Library Network

WLN, which was developed under the auspices of the Washington State Library, is an important regional network. The WLN computer system is highly sophisticated but because of WLN's regional orientation, its influence on the national scene has been limited. One major difference between the WLN system and others is that its software has been exported to other libraries. For example, the system has been adopted by the National Library of Australia and is currently being considered for adoption by several state and regional groups in the United States. The WLN system is designed primarily to provide support for technical services activities. WLN as an organization has been

less involved to date with programmatic efforts such as preservation and collection development.

Utilizing Computer-Based Networks to Support Library Programs

Most librarians have focused their attention on the computer-based systems developed by RLG and OCLC. As a result, there has been a tendency to view these systems as ends rather than as means to ends. The program orientation of RLG is changing that attitude. From its inception RLG has emphasized the use of its computer system to further the programmatic objectives of the organization, specifically to support its programs of preservation, shared collection development and resource sharing.

In general, the capacity of libraries to share resources has been greatly enhanced by the emergence of computer-based systems such as OCLC and RLG/RLIN. These powerful computer systems have allowed research libraries to pursue cooperation and collaboration with an intensity previously thought impractical. RLG has also benefited by the commonality in purpose of its members--a commonality which has enabled it to avoid the disagreements which frequently occur when libraries with different missions attempt to work together.

Several colleagues whose libraries belong to OCLC tell me that RLG's greatest contribution to the American library scene may well have been its influence on OCLC's management. It was RLG's presence that caused OCLC finally to pay greater attention to the needs of research libraries. This assertion may be an exaggeration, but since RLG's emergence, OCLC has been more responsive to its research library members. The existence of OCLC's

Research Libraries Advisory Council is evidence of this new posture. The advisory committee has developed four programmatic goals including 1) the establishment of centers of cataloging responsibility, 2) the development of a cooperative microforms cataloging project, 3) the development of automatic search systems to facilitate interlibrary loan, and 4) the capacity to support preservation projects. Not surprisingly, these program objectives closely parallel the objectives of the Research Libraries Group.

OCLC and RLG continue to dominate the networking scene in the United States. Their rapid rise to positions of prominence and even dominance has contributed to a climate of competition that has existed between the two organizations for the last three years. This environment has caused strain since some librarians were not accustomed to coping with organizational competitiveness. Ultimately, however, this competitiveness has served to sharpen program development within both organizations, and in the long term it may well be viewed by library historians as a positive stimulus to network development in the United States. In fact, libraries of the Research Libraries Group were recently given the opportunity to initiate or continue active affiliation with OCLC in one of a variety of capacities. I am hopeful that further efforts to cooperate and/or strengthen networks through a technical linkage may occur in the near future.

Recent Progress

Although attention to computer systems has overshadowed other projects, the bibliographic utilities nevertheless continue to enhance their systems' capacity to support other programs. Both utilities are giving special

attention to a project intended to provide analytics for titles in large microform sets and to make this information available to users of the networks. RLG continues to report progress in its efforts to accommodate Chinese/Japanese/Korean ideographs as part of its RLIN system. OCLC has accelerated its efforts to provide members with a distributed processing capacity that will permit the implementation of local systems and continued participation in OCLC. RLG continues to make available specialized data bases such as the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals and more recently SCIPIO, an index to art sales catalogs of major auction houses. One of the more significant accomplishments in recent years has been the creation and continuing enlargement of the CONSER data base. With the stimulus of federal funding CONSER participants have collectively contributed more than a half million fully cataloged serial records to the OCLC and RLIN data bases. It seems unthinkable that these records ultimately will not be merged into a unified data base.

Next Steps

I believe network development in the United States will remain in a state of flux for several years. The library community is just now gaining confidence in its ability to govern the multimillion dollar affairs of computer-based network organizations. And, while our profession is mired in the throes of a general and deep economic recession, it seems certain that the current budgetary climate will influence how libraries deploy their financial resources. Participants of networks will continue to grapple with the service needs of network users. In the case of OCLC, there has been a clamor to provide subject access to records. While RLG members enjoy subject access

capabilities pressure is being exerted by RLG members to provide authority control at the network level. Can the bibliographical utilities afford to provide such new services? Can the profession afford to apportion its energies to several simultaneous and independent network efforts? These are important, complicated questions that have not yet been answered.

During the next few years librarians will become accustomed to working with computer systems to store, access, and retrieve bibliographic information. Gradually, more attention will be directed to the programs which are supported by these computer systems. The RLIN system already permits its members to share information about titles microfilmed for purposes of preservation. I assume other systems will eventually permit users to share similar information.

I believe the cooperative activity of greatest significance will prove to be the efforts in the area of shared collection development responsibilities. RLG libraries are currently engaged in a project to identify strengths and weaknesses of member collections. Using the methodological tool developed by RLG, a group of ARL libraries have begun a similar project. In the short term, primary collection responsibilities (PCRs) may emerge among libraries in networks. Fundamental to such efforts will be the capacity to share information about holdings and to make materials available to other libraries in a timely manner. In the longer term shared collection development will require institutional commitments and the support of faculty. Faculty are beginning to realize that shared collection development will affect the nature of local collections and will gradually impinge on the way many conduct library research. The debate over collection development strategies is likely to become contentious on some campuses because collections are fundamental,

and any change in their nature will undoubtedly influence the teaching and research programs of research libraries in the years ahead.

The shape of technology itself will change in the years ahead. There are futurists who point out that the star-network model exemplified by the major U.S. bibliographic utilities is already technologically obsolete. The world is moving rapidly toward an era in which mini- and ever more powerful micro-computers can provide services that formerly were available only through large-scale centralized computer systems. This trend is already recognized by OCLC's management, as evidenced by the current effort to provide members with a distributed processing capability. RLG is also preparing for distributed computing by developing technical computer-to-computer protocols to permit members to link their local systems with the main computer in Palo Alto.

We will probably experience a redistribution of functions performed by the large national bibliographic utilities and activities performed at the local level. This redistribution is likely to be painful as organizations realign operations and staffing patterns to conform to new organizational structures. But underlying the technological upheaval is the still unrecognized imperative that research libraries must collaborate if they are to fulfill their traditional mission to support teaching, research, and scholarship. Research libraries will have to work together to minimize the financial problems that are likely to persist through the decade of the eighties. This will involve the recognition of local inadequacies and the necessity to participate selectively in programs of collaboration. Only if research libraries act collectively to address the dual problems of collection development and preservation will they be able to sustain traditional levels of service during this period of dwindling institutional resources.

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Approaches to Coordination of Resources and Services in Southeast Asian Libraries and Information Centers

by

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1. Introduction

The remarkable progress in coordination of libraries and information centers activities in Southeast Asia observed in recent years derives basically from two phenomena:

a. A world-wide awareness that to face successfully the dramatic challenge created by the exponential growth of available information, rightly named the "information explosion", intensive cooperation and sharing of resources has become a "must", a vital necessity for libraries and information centers if they are to remain efficient and to survive. That feeling, true in all countries, rich or poor, is even more acute in developing countries which have limited resources and so many priorities and which therefore, cannot dedicate sufficient resources to their information facilities.

b. At a more specific level, Southeast Asian countries have developed a strong regional conciousness which has led to the creation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations -- ASEAN -- grouping presently five Countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The ASEAN community has become the appropriate infrastructure for strengthening closer ties in all fields -- political, economical, technical, social, cultural -- and consequently provided a powerful incentive for coordinating information resources and activities at a regional level. Such coordinating efforts have proliferated fast, and it is therefore difficult in the limited length of this paper to be fully comprehensive in listing and describing all cooperative information ventures. The authors will attempt more modestly to give an overall picture of the situation in Southeast Asia and describe some major undertakings. Emphasis will be given to activities generated by the Southeast Asians themselves, because these are the clearest proof of their will to cooperate and indicate in which directions they wish to do so.

2. Infrastructures for Cooperation

2.1 Regional Infrastructures created by Southeast Asian countries

The existence of the ASEAN Community has reflected itself in the information field by the creation in 1970 of the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (in short, CONSAL) which has become the regional professional body for the five ASEAN nations with the following objectives [1, 2, 3]:

a) To establish and strengthen relations among librarians, libraries, library schools and related organizations in the region.

b) To promote cooperation in the fields of librarianship, documentation and related activities in the region.

c) To cooperate with other regional and international organizations and institutions.

CONSAL meetings have been held in Singapore (1970), Manila (1973), Jakarta (1975), Bangkok (1978), and Kuala Lumpur (1981), and their proceedings have been published. Its council has representative of the five member countries and a rotating Chairmanship.

Though practical implementation of its ambitious objectives has been so far modest, CONSAL is developing well. It is an ideal forum for promoting cooperation and has a considerable potential for starting and carrying out regional cooperative ventures, which it will most probably undertake now that it has gathered strength and momentum.

Another event took place in 1978 which might have far reaching consequences in the region: the establishment, with governmental endorsements, of the Consortium of National Libraries and Documentation Centre of Southeast Asia (NLDC-SEA) involving the National Libraries of Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the Scientific National Documentation Center of Indonesia [4]. The objectives of NLDC-SEA are:

a) To provide efficient access to all library materials emanating from member countries, such access to be facilitated through inter-library loans, provision of photocopies, microforms and assistance in procurement.

b) To promote and coordinate the acquisition within each country of the library materials of the region.

c) To promote the prompt recording of the national output of library materials in the national bibliography, their issue in accordance with international standards and in a format which will facilitate the creation of a regional MARC tape.

d) To create in each institution a register of publications translated from local language into languages of broader distribution.

e) To initiate action to reduce barriers to the free flow of library materials within the region.

f) To establish effective communication channels among the institutions through telex and other appropriate means.

The NLDC-SEA is administered by a rotating coordinator and five consortium liaison officers. Each of the national members being in principle a central node in its own country's libraries network, the whole system corresponds in fact to a pyramidal type of organization including most of the information facilities of Southeast Asia.

Besides purely information ventures such as CONSAL and NLDC-SEA, the regional consciousness materialized by the ASEAN Association has generated many regional activities in Southeast Asia, most of which have information components. These were automatically set up on a regional basis ensuring therefore some forms of cooperation among their participants. This type of organizing process can be illustrated by SEAMIC (Southeast Asian Medical Information Center) a project of SEAMHO (Southeast Asian Medical and Health Organization) [5], by SAFIS (Southeast Asian Fisheries Information Center) derived from SEAFDEC (Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center), by SEACEN (Southeast Asian Central Banks Research and Training Centre Library) created by the five ASEAN Central Banks [6], by AMIC (Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Center), etc.

SEAMEO (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization) has started a number of programmes which include regional information facilities, such as those generated by BIOTROP (Tropical Biology), by TROPMED (Tropical Medicine) and by SEARCA (Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture) which has set up AIBA (Agricultural Information Bank for Asia).

2.2 Regional Infrastructures linked to International Organizations

Some information structures existing in Southeast Asia are branches of international professional organizations, which have followed a strong trend towards regionalization of their activities.

An outstanding example is the creation in 1976 of the ISDS-Southeast Asia including the five national ISDS Centers of the ASEAN countries, with a regional centre located at the National Library of Thailand [7]. The objectives of ISDS-SEA are:

a) To establish a computer based regional serial data bank for serials published in each of the participating countries.

b) To serve as a regional node of the ISDS network by contributing the local data towards the maintenance of the ISDS international base file and by acting as a liaison between the International Center and the National Centers of the Region.

c) To ensure bibliographic control by systematic registration of all serials published in the participating countries.

d) To facilitate information transfer on serial publications both within and beyond the Region.

e) To foster a spirit of cooperation among participating countries.

Other examples of such regional branches are: SARBICA (the Southeast Asian Regional Branch of the International Council of Archives), the FID/CAO (Commission for Asia and Oceania of the Federation Internationale de Documentation), and the Asian Section of IFLA's Division of Regional activities [8].

In addition many approaches to coordination between information facilities in Southeast Asia are generated by the activities of other types of International Organizations in the region, either because of their own specialized missions or/and through direct support (funding, consultancies) of local institutions and projects.

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), an autonomous international institution, located in Bangkok, serving Asian countries through post-graduate education, research and information is contributing through its Library and Regional Documentation Center to regional information activities in Southeast Asia by setting up specialized Information Centers, by promoting the utilization of computers, by training of manpower, consultancies and by undertaking pilot-projects in cooperation with CONSAL, ISDS-SEA and national centers [9, 10, 24].

United Nations Agencies (UNESCO, ESCAP, WHO, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, etc.) and many other Organizations such as the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Governmental Agencies, Foundations, Associations, are participating in cooperative ventures in the field of information. It is impossible to list them all here and only two examples will be given.

A typical example of an operational information system is AGRIS, international information system for agriculture sponsored by FAO. Its regional center located at AIBA (Agricultural Bank for Asia) in the Philippines, coordinates the activities of the AGRIS national focal points of the region, ensures their linkage with the

whole AGRIS network and builds up a regional data base AGRIASIA [11].

Another type of venture -- that of large scale networking projects can be best illustrated by UNESCO's project for a "Regional Network of Scientific and Technological Information for Development in Southeast Asia". That ambitious plan aimed at improving access within the region to relevant information through establishment of an on-line computer based information network and establishment of linkages with other regional and international systems, and also "to promote regional self-reliance in information within a framework of global cooperation" [12].

Though approved in principle by representative of the countries concerned at a meeting in Bangkok in 1980, the project has unfortunately not started yet to be implemented.

An interesting method of sharing resources now in full development in South and Southeast Asia is the establishment of Specialized Information Centers (SCI) focusing their activities on specific "commodities" or "missions" of high priority and with a regional responsibility regarding collection and dissemination of information [9]. Such Information Centers, generally launched with financial support from agencies (like IDRC), exist already for Water Buffalo (Thailand), Ferrocement (Thailand), Rubber (Malaysia), Coconut (Sri Lanka), Sorghum and Millets (India), Living Aquatic Reosurces (Philippines), Tin (Malaysia), Rice (Philippines), Renewable Energies (Thailand), Cholera (Bangladesh), Environmental Sanitation (Thailand), Packaging materials and techniques (Hong Kong), Geotechnical Engineering (Thailand), Fisheries (Thailand), etc... Others are envisaged for Coal, for Tropical Fruits, and for Remote Sensing.

Experience as shown that those SIC can operate efficiently on moderate budgets, have strong networking aspects and can have a significant impact on regional development. They are best located in leading regional or national Institutes or Universities deeply involved in the topics covered by the SIC through higher education or/and research.

Similar services are rendered by formal regional networks such as TECHNONET dedicated to small and medium size industries [13].

2.3 National Infrastructures [14]

It is quite obvious, however, that regional infrastructures, especially of the pyramidal type like the NLDC-SEA Consortium, will function properly only if each one and all of their national components are also well organized and cooperate efficiently at country level.

Therefore, the development of the national information systems is of primary importance and is progressing in all Southeast Asian countries. In fact, the existence of regional structures has put strong pressure on each member country to so to speak "put its own house in order". It is most significant to note that the CONSAL IV meeting held in Bangkok in 1978 was entitled "Regional Cooperation for the Development of National Information Services in Southeast Asia". The substantial efforts being made in all the countries of the region to improve and strengthen their national information systems are too many to be described here and have been detailed recently in the country papers presented in 1981 at the CONSAL V meeting by Malaysia [6], Indonesia [15], Philippines [16], Singapore [17], and Thailand [18].

3. Areas of Cooperation [5, 12]

The coordination of information resources and services in Southeast Asia is occuring in the following areas of activities:

3.1 Inventories of resources

Considerable efforts are devoted to the compilation of various types of resources inventories, as the prerequisite to efficient sharing of resources is to exactly know what exists to be shared.

National bibliographies, Southeast Asian serials lists, Union lists of serials are generated in all countries, generally using computer based methods [7, 10, 16, 18] and attempts to consolidate them at a regional level are undertaken [10, 12, 18].

A Master list of Microforms for Southeast Asia has been compiled by CONSAL and SARBICA [3]. Numerous directories of information resources in the region have been published by a number of national or international organizations.

3.2 Document procurement [19, 20]

Document procurement by means of inter-library loans and provision of copies of documents has benefited from agreements made between libraries at country level and also at the regional level through the NLDC Consortium (see p. 2).

3.3 Cataloguing

Projects aiming at improving cataloguing efficiency by using computerized systems have been started at several centers in the region such as the University of Sains Malaysia (project MALMARC [6, 12, 21]), the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand and the National University of Singapore [17]. Such projects imply both the utilization of existing MARC data bases and the building up of local MARC data bases. Though studied initially at limited local levels such systems when operational should easily be extended to benefit many libraries and result in interesting large scale cooperative operations in Southeast Asia.

3.4 Documentation

Repackaging and dissemination of information in Southeast Asia has been improved by some sharing of responsibilities and of work, mostly informal, between libraries and documentation centers.

General coverage of national outputs is covered to a significant extent by the publications of "Abstracts Journals" and "Bibliographic Lists" produced at national levels [6, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22].

Information related to several areas of high priority for the region is dealt with in a number of ways:

-- National Documentation Centers.

-- Information Services of some International Organizations (i.e. ESCAP [23], FAO-AGRIS [see p. 4]).

-- Specialized Information Networks (i.e. TECHNONET [see p. 5], SEAMIC [see p. 3]).

-- Specialized Information Centers (see p. 5).

3.5 Computer Applications

The utilization of computers which requires considerable resources in hardware and in expertise is an area where cooperation is most desirable. It is starting in Southeast Asia where substantial collective efforts are being made for applications such as cataloguing (see 3.3), resources inventories (see 3.1), provision of SDI services and data bases management (i.e. AIT in Thailand [10, 24], University of Sains Malaysia, Technology Resource Center [22], and AIBA [11] in the Philippines, Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia [25], etc.).

Cooperation has been in the form of consultancies, exchanges of experience, training and working agreements, often sponsored by International Organizations.

Special efforts have been made to install in Southeast Asia the CDS/ISIS and CAN/SDI software packages, supported by UNESCO -- including two "ISIS Training Course" held in the Philippines and at AIT in Thailand. The MINISIS system designed for minicomputers is also being actively promoted in the region by IDRC [26].

Though some attempts have been made in the Philippines [22] and in Singapore [27] to access computerized data bases through telecommunication systems, this area has not yet been developed significantly in the region. However, it can be expected that the coming years will see a breakthrough in that important aspect of resource sharing of world-wide significance.

3.6 Training of Manpower

The availability of qualified information manpower in sufficient numbers has been recognized as the top priority for Southeast Asia by the First UNISIST Meeting of Experts on Regional Information Policies and Planning in Southeast Asia held in Indonesia in 1977.

Some efforts have been made to increase training facilities, for instance: the UNESCO/UNDP sponsored "Post-graduate Training Course for Science Information Specialists in Southeast Asia" at the University of the Philippines [28], a one-month UNESCO sponsored regional training course held twice in Bangkok, short courses offered by Library Associations, scholarships given by funding agencies (such as UNESCO/UNDP) for studies within and out of the region. However, much remains yet to be done to upgrade information manpower.

4. Difficulties and Prospects

The obstacles to the establishment of an efficient coordination and sharing of resources inSoutheast Asia are many and will be only briefly reported.

They are the result of a variety of factors which can be human, social, cultural, political, technical and economical.

Individualism, nationalism tend to restrict efforts at a limited local level opposing therefore their extension to broader levels. This trend is further enhanced by cultural differences and variety of languages used in the region. Resistance to change, a widespread human weakness, prevents some too conservative librarians from easily adapting to new situations, methods and tools.

The low quality of telecommunication lines and networks creates a technical obstacle to speedy information transfer.

The unawareness of many decision makers of the importance of information for their country's development process has very grave consequences on the amount of resources allocated to information activities, which is far too weak and on the status of information specialists which is too low. The situation is further aggravated by the indifference of many potential information users who do not seem to realize that improving information facilities is as much, if not more, their responsibility and their own interest than that of librarians and documentalists.

Political factors play of course a major role in defining geographical limits to regional cooperation. (The ASEAN association included initially 7 countries but is now restricted to 5).

Customs regulations, foreign currency exchange restrictions, high cost and unreliability of postal services are all serious obstacles to the free flow of information.

But most of the obstacles to the development of national and regional information systems derive from the scarcity of financial resources, whatever its causes. It prevents improving acquisitions, facilities and equipment, training and keeping qualified manpower, implementing modern methods and cooperative ventures.

International organizations and the various "Aid Agencies" could play an important role by providing additional funds and expertise. They do so to a limited extent, but their funding activities are insufficient and often unrealistic leading to much waste and confusion. The expertise they provide is also too often irrelevant. There is a regretable tendency

to decide for developing countries "what is good for them" rather than try to find out what those countries really want and need.

The remedies to overcome all those obstacles are easy to imagine but difficult to implement. It is necessary, to increase further regional consciousness despite individualism and cultural differences, to convince decision makers and users that improving information facilities is an important component of development (and therefore that more resources have to be allocated to it) and that barriers to information flow have to be eliminated.

Funding agencies have to be persuaded to increase their financial support and to adopt more realistic and relevant policies. They ought to implement efficiently modest projects immediately useful, accepted, or better, requested by the countries in the region, keeping in mind global systems, but not using up all their resources in just devicing such systems. A noteworthy example of well balanced, realistic funding policy is that followed by IDRC [29].

Nevertheless, despite many obstacles the prospects for coordination and development of information activities in Southeast Asia are good. Much has been achieved already. Appropriate infrastructures, and the will to cooperate exist and are developing fast in the region. If sufficient resources are made available, spectacular improvements of coordinated information services will occur in the years to come in Southeast Asia.

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The Development of Special Collections: problems of constructing networks

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When I was first asked to prepare a paper on 'the networking of collection building in the context of special collections', I felt as if I were being pulled in three directions at once. Networking to me meant contributing to a shared computerised data base, with all the discipline which conforming to other people's standards entails; 'collection building' meant searching through booksellers' catalogues, crossing the world to track down ephemera, securing adequate funding, or seeking and attracting gifts; and 'special collections' meant those parts of one's library which distinguish it in some way from any other library with the same function - those books or other materials which draw readers from far afield. My task in this paper is to look at that area where networks, special collections, and collection building converge.

'Network' has become almost synonymous with 'computer network' in library literature, especially that published in North America, where the very size of collections and distance between major research centres hampered the growth of networks without the aid of new technology. But in more limited environments and in more modest groups of libraries, networks have been developed successfully with traditional methods over the last twenty years or so. I shall use 'network' in this broad sense of a group of co-operating libraries with or without the new technology; and most of my examples will be from the United Kingdom, where inter-library co-operation depended on a network of libraries long before the British Library was there to pull the strings together.

But to define the term 'special collections' is more difficult. Dr. Kenneth Humphreys once distinguished four kinds of special collections: gifts, bequests, deposits, and those begun as well as maintained by a library deliberately choosing to launch them and spend money on them. Special collections turn our libraries and our institutions into centres of excellence for research. I prefer to distinguish two kinds of special collection - those which have evolved independently of library policy, by gift or purchase, and have become rare or even unique, and which we maintain independently of the immediate needs of our regular readers; and those which are created as a deliberate act of policy whether local or national, and which we maintain for a particular purpose and maybe for a limited period. The first kind of special collection may be found to have grown up unplanned rather like a medieval town with a maze of streets. Such a collection may only be recognised as 'special', decades or even centuries after its formation, when the books will be hustled into safer keeping and set apart perhaps for the first time. The second kind of special collection reminds me more of the garden city or landscaped town with a neat pattern of streets, economically planned - though I can think of some with more the appearance of a gold rush township.

The past thirty years have shown that it is by no means easy for libraries to co-operate successfully in the building of special collections, and even present networks are hampered by unexpected problems.

My first example is the British 'Background Materials Scheme' as it came to be known. This began with a conference chaired by Professor R. B. Cairns of a Joint Standing Committee on Library Co-operation which consisted of members of the Association of University Teachers and Librarians of university and research libraries in 1951. The aim of the Joint Standing Committee was to organise lending "between the learned libraries of Great Britain and Ireland so that the resources of all might be available to researchers in each." Great concern was felt at the "inadequacy of the provision for books, pamphlets, periodicals, etc. up to the year 1800." It was decided on certain steps: firstly, "in order to chart existing resources, and to ensure that all gaps throughout the period are filled", it asked all university and other research libraries to report their holdings of such works. Secondly, it set up a co-operative purchasing scheme for collecting books in all languages printed before 1800, each library taking responsibility for a particular period "so that complete coverage can be made." Thirty years later, both these aims seem unrealistic in the extreme, but it is interesting to note the readiness with which libraries - both public and academic - agreed to contribute. I can remember how, as a new recruit to the profession, I had the task of checking a collection of about 600 volumes in Sheffield University Library's strongroom against Pollard and Redgrave, and finding just one item not listed there - a 'Farewell to Dr. Andrew Gray.' But for large and old libraries the request to check all their pre-1640 holdings - let alone their pre-1700 holdings - was unreasonable. It is significant, however, that the Joint Standing Committee recognised from the outset that co-operation in acquisition and more adequate access for students and scholars, must begin with more adequate knowledge and control of what one has. Co-operative acquisitions networks and union catalogues go hand in hand.

The idea that each library participating in the scheme should take responsibility for covering a period of years was a novel one. The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were carved up into five, ten or twenty year blocks according to a library's size or budget. The small town of Ipswich, for example, took the years 1760-1764, Birmingham University took 1660-1669, and Edinburgh took 1690-1709. Originally the plan was that complete coverage should be achieved between the participating libraries, at least for material of social, historical and literary interest. Libraries were expected to guarantee to spend perhaps £50 or £100 per year on purchases for every decade covered. An early paper from the Committee promised that "Each library which builds up the material for a period will become the natural centre for researches within that period. It will of course," the Committee continued, "remain open to each library to go on buying in accordance with its interests in other periods also."

It is easy to smile at this optimism thirty years later. The scope of the scheme was in fact modified over the years. In the 1960s it was extended to cover the period to 1869, but on the other hand it did not define itself quite so ambitiously in kind of material. By the late sixties the scheme was seen as an "attempt to preserve, in a lending library, a copy of those books published within this period which are relatively inexpensive and are unlikely to be collected otherwise by any British library. While major works, and even minor works

of major authors, are likely to be collected by libraries, many books of less intrinsic value may fail to find their way into any of the copyright libraries, and possibly not even those. Collections of such minor books are, however, important to the research worker in many fields as they contain evidence about the social and culteral background of the period on which he is working."

It is seen from this that the scheme was intended to provide additional coverage rather than to rationalise existing patterns of acquisition. It is interesting to see why libraries chose to cover the periods which they selected. Edinburgh University, for example, chose the period 1690-1709 because the Library became a copyright library in 1710, and this would clearly extend its reasonably comprehensive coverage without a break. When in 1964 the scheme was extended to the nineteenth century, Edinburgh chose in addition the period 1837-1839 for the same reason: the Library ceased to be a copyright library in 1837. By this time book prices had increased and libraries participating were expected to spend about £100 a year on a two to four year period.

The chronological dispensation was taken most seriously by librarians. When it was suggested to one librarian that he should hand over a particular year to a traditionally rival library, he demurred, saying that the proposal would destroy the arithmetical neatness of the division, adding "Of course I don't mind if anyone else buys in this year. We shall go on regardless." A chronological file was kept in the National Central Library. By the late sixties when there were over forty libraries taking part, this file for the eighteenth century alone included over 17,000 titles.

There was, however, some wavering among members at the close of the sixties, and this was on a number of counts. Book prices had greatly increased as fewer copies came on the antiquarian market. It was particularly difficult to trace appropriate items for the nineteenth century. But qualms about the scheme arose chiefly from the requirement to lend. In the sixties the use of photocopying and the growth of reprint and microform publishing brought alternatives to loan into both librarians' and scholars' ken. The development of the national inter-library lending network within the British Library framework, and the more generous provision of travel grants for research to some extent reduced the need for the comparatively unsystematic coverage provided by the scheme. For it had been difficult for a librarian to know how far to take his responsibility. If lending must be guaranteed, little more than minor verse, sermons and tracts might be declared, although coverage of the period was being enhanced all the time in larger and perhaps more significant ways. At the same time there was a growing awareness of the need of conservation of rare and early material.

In 1976 a survey of the views of the 36 members showed that while most believed the scheme still to be viable, the primary reason for continuing participation was that their share in it coincided with their other collecting policies. Several libraries were unwilling to lend. What had begun as a scheme for making a wider range of inexpensive material available for loan to a greater number of readers, had become more strictly a scheme for supplementing existing rich collections of

research material on a reference basis. It was natural therefore, that when the British Library offered to take over the operation of the scheme from the Joint Standing Committee on Library Co-operation in 1979, it was the Reference Division, not the Lending Division, which took it under its wing.

I have dwelt on this scheme at some length because I think it tells us a number of things about the building of special collections and about co-operative acquisition schemes. Firstly, it shows that, historically at least, co-operation succeeds when libraries have sufficient additional resources to engage in it as a supplementary activity. Librarians will buy co-operatively what they would not be interested in buying individually. It is much more natural for them to withdraw from such a scheme when funds become scarce than to continue participation on the basis of rationalised purchase, giving up some area of regular individual coverage in favour of maintaining a co-operative responsibility for material of slight local interest.

Secondly, it shows that the value of a co-operative acquisitions scheme depends on its bibliographical control. From the start it was recognised that a list of acquisitions should be held centrally, to aid access and to pinpoint gaps. A chronological file, however, is not the most likely form in which a scholar, or a librarian on his behalf, would be likely to seek information. Certainly it could be immensely valuable in certain historical and bibliographical studies. But I doubt whether a librarian, on being asked for a particular book by a particular author published in a particular year, would think first of consulting a catalogue of acquisitions by date of publication. As a supplementary search key, date of publication offers exciting possibilities. The advent of automated networks make it worth exploitation. In the more leisurely heyday of the Background Material Scheme it was much less viable.

Co-operation on the basis of publication date, however, bizarre though it may at first appear, has much to commend it. It escapes the vagueness, the lack of definition, of a subject-based scheme. There is something undeniable - or almost undeniable, for title pages can be deceptive - about a publication date. How successful such co-operation can be will, I think, be seen in another co-operative project now taking advantage of the new technology, and on an international basis. I refer to the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) project.

While the ESTC project does not strictly come within the scope of this paper, as it is concerned not with the acquisition but with the recording of special collections, it is undenible that a holdings strategy and an access strategy are inextricably linked, and knowledge of the availability of copies is a prerequisite of any co-operative acquisition. The project had its origins in the 1970s, when there were proposals to publish a catalogue based on the holdings of the British Library, the Bodleian Library and Cambridge University Library, in London, Oxford and Cambridge (hence called Project LOC) respectively, in the belief that this would provide records for 75% of 18th century British books. At the same time there were various proposals from commercial firms for the publication of entries for early printed books derived from other library catalogues. At an international conference

in June 1976 the cataloguing method and inclusions policy to be adopted in a union catalogue of early books was agreed. Plans were made to convert the entries in the British Library catalogue and the Library of Congress' National Union Catalogue to machine readable form. These records would subsequently be enriched by other libraries' holdings.

Both in America and in Britain progress has been made in the last six years in the creation of the data base which will provide an invaluable tool for collection building as well as for information retrieval in the field of 18th century printed books. This year is in fact a landmark in the work: from April the ESTC file has been available on-line to RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network) subscribers, and from mid-June in the United Kingdom to Blaise (British Library Automated Information Service) subscribers. Scholars in the British Library reading rooms will be able to request a search by a variety of keywords, including names of booksellers and printers as well as authors, and place of publication or date. A new degree of flexibility is suddenly available.

"Within a decade" said Dr. R. C. Alston, addressing the Rare Books Group in 1981, "we have seen the emergence of OCLC and bibliographical networks - exciting opportunities that few of us would resist for modern books. But a sizeable proportion of the books consulted in the great research libraries are books printed before 1850 . . . and there remains, outside the sciences and pseudo-sciences, a distinct and determined community whose interest focuses on the past." Now this community too will be served by the bibliographical networks. The ESTC file demonstrates not the rigidity but the flexibility of new methods and standards. Few developments are likely to have greater significance for those concerned with co-operative development of special collections of early printed books.

A commercial enterprise, REMARC, should also be mentioned here. At Irvine in Scotland the Carrolton Press is converting the Library of Congress shelflist to machine readable form, to US Marc standards. They hope to complete the project, covering over five million entries, by January 1984. They will sell these records to individual libraries and to networks, and this will not only be attractive to libraries contemplating retrospective conversion of their catalogues but, if selective listings are obtained, for bibliographic enterprises of more limited scope. Again, the flexibility of the new technology opens up new prospects for control of early material by place of publication, by date, or most significantly by subject.

More emphasis on a subject approach is found in another co-operative scheme. In 1977 the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Library of Scotland invited representatives of Scottish libraries to discuss co-operation in acquisition. This meeting was prompted by a recognition that no library is self-sufficient, that even with the services offered by the British Library there might be advantages in forming smaller groups of libraries which could co-operate more locally. One of the areas considered from the outset as a possible sphere for co-operation was the acquisition of older books and manuscripts whose uniqueness or rarity make it important that libraries should work together and not in competition. The availability of bibliographic information on the holdings of Scottish libraries was seen as a crucial

factor. Reciprocal access and inter-lending facilities were other questions raised at the first meeting, as a result of which a Working Group was set up, which included the Librarians of the eight Scottish universities, of the two major public library systems (Edinburgh and Glasgow) and of the National Library of Scotland.

A number of positive benefits were recognised from the start in the field of acquisitions. While the autonomy of individual institutions was accepted, it was agreed that informal consultation between members was to be encouraged, when expensive purchases were contemplated, and especially when bidding at auction, to avoid competition. This informal consultation does in fact work remarkably well. Communication is generally by telephone, but with the advent of electronic mail in the SCOLCAP (Scottish Libraries Co-operative Automation Project), other cheaper methods may well take the place of the telephone for routine enquiries. The availability of a special fund, the Local Museums Purchase Fund, for the purchase of books and manuscripts, at the discretion of the Secretary of State for Scotland, encourages the process of co-operation. The National Library is not entitled to benefit from the Fund, but the National Librarian advises on any grant from it. Many Scottish libraries have cause to be grateful for the quick response and generous assistance with applications. If a bid is to be made at auction, the decision can be taken in time.

That special collections can be developed in a truly co-operative way is due in part to the good understanding which the member libraries in the network have of each other's special interests and acquisitions policies. One of the earliest achievements of the Working Group was a statement of special interests in purchasing manuscripts and printed books. Each library indicated its policy in the use of funds for the purchase of special items, the scope of its special collections, the average number of books added each year, the average annual expenditure, and any other information which it was prepared to disclose to members of the Group. One tenet of the National Library's acquisitions policy is the avoidance of overlap, as far as possible, in the purchase of foreign books, especially with libraries in Edinburgh.

The Working Group recognised that there would, however, be areas of overlap in purchasing policy and in special interests between the National Library and the universities, and between the universities themselves. Edinburgh University and the National Library, for example, both have an interest in the papers and works of modern Scottish writers. An interest in business archives and the archives of publishing houses is even more widely distributed through the Group.

By the end of the first year of the Working Group's work, a ten page co-ordinated statement of the interests of the various member libraries had been drafted and circulated. It was arranged by subject, and had an index of areas in which special interests overlapped. This statement went through considerable refinement over the next year or so, but from the start opened up new opportunities for co-operation in acquisition. A subject index subsequently enhanced the value of the document. Only 'live' collections which would be added to by purchase were included, and a library contemplating purchase can easily check if another might

be interested. By this means competitive bidding at auction, for example, has been eradicated, and the chance of inadvertent duplication of expenditure from limited resources greatly diminished. The success of this venture in co-ordinated collection building has been due in no small measure to the lead taken by the National Library of Scotland.

The Co-operation in Acquisition Working Group has also pioneered the exploitation of the network - for the group of eleven major research libraries in Scotland is as much of a network as can be found in Britain, and modelled itself in some conspicuous ways on the Research Libraries Group - for co-operative purchase of current monographs and serials. Members of the Group agreed at an early stage to report all purchases over a certain price or value to a central point. It was recognised that some duplication of even the most expensive material would be inevitable and even desirable. There was considerable scepticism within the Group as to how far it is significant to a library that another member has a particular expensive item if the two libraries are more than a few miles apart, and a little preliminary research has been done into the willingness of readers to travel in the course of their research. But at least the systematic reporting of purchases costing over £100 (or £200 for multi-volume works) has helped to ensure that expensive new purchases were adequately publicised among members.

Another aspect of collection building in which the Scottish research libraries' working Group has begun to engage is the rationalisation of existing holdings, albeit in a small way. Several of the member libraries were in continuing receipt of theses from European universities which they could not all justify keeping or processing in the light of use. The National Library was persuaded to accept such collections as could no longer be maintained in several libraries so as to ensure that one copy was preserved in Scotland. Rationalisation, however, like co-operation, costs money, and transfer of stock can put considerable pressure both on the giver and on the receiver. In this context, the development of SCOLCAT, the union catalogue of acquisitions in participating libraries, which is to be on-line to members this summer, will ultimately prove an immense boon, and should make transfer of stock considerably less labour-intensive; but this must depend on the speed with which members can engage in retro-conversion of their catalogues.

The existence of SCOLCAP, with its growing data base of Scottish library holdings, is undoubtedly going to enhance the value of any co-operative acquisition of materials, whether for special or general collections. The comparative compactness of the area of membership, when compared for example with the distance between members of the American Research Libraries Group, is a considerable advantage, and access via PSS is likely to offer considerable savings in cost of interrogating the files.

The special collections considered hitherto have been chiefly those based on gifts, bequests, deposits and material acquired originally, irrespective of its rarity or uniqueness, to meet regular current demand - collections which, however fervently they are maintained as a matter of policy, do not owe their origins to policy. But the other kind of special collection - the planned collection which may well form part of a deliberate national or international grid - presents different problems and opportunities for co-operative collection building.

Nowhere are the advantages and the problems of collection-building on a network basis better exemplified than in the field of area studies.

In this sphere co-operative acquisition calls to mind above all the American PL480 and NPAC programmes. The British experience, however, of co-ordinating acquisitions on a smaller scale and with extremely limited resources, is less well known and may be of particular interest in times of diminishing budgets.

The present network of centres for oriental and Africa studies in Britain is due chiefly to the report of a small committee under Sir William Hayter which reported to the British government in 1961. This advocated a ten-year programme of earmarked support for modern Asian Studies, and the establishment of new centres. Considerable attention was given to libraries, and while the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies of London University was proposed as the natural centre for a national lending library, the School Library was also asked to assume initiative in organising a series of co-operative library policies between British universities, to assist co-ordination of library support for regional Asian studies. As a result of this report, a number of regional library groups - the China Library Group, Japan Library Group, Middle East Libraries Committee, South Asia Library Group and South-East Asia Library Group were formed. These were autonomous and more or less spontaneous. Each included some, if not all, of the provincial universities - Cambridge, Durham, Oxford, Hull, Leeds, and Sheffield - which had been nominated as Asian studies centres. Each also sensibly widened its scope to include not only the SOAS Library, the British Library and the India Office Library, but other libraries with oriental interests. All these regional library groups became affiliated to, though constitutionally independent of, the Group of Orientalist Libraries jointly formed by the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries and the Association of British Orientalists (now the SCONUL Advisory Committee on Orientalist Materials). By 1975, fourteen years after the Hayter report, expenditure on books for modern oriental studies in British universities amounted to about £120,000 a year.

The SCONUL Advisory Committee has made considerable progress in co-ordinating library support for oriental studies in Britain, its greatest achievement being the establishment and publication of the Union catalogue of Asian publications which now includes well over 200,000 locations and satisfies 30% of all inter-library loan requests which the SOAS Library cannot satisfy. But the co-ordination of acquisitions is effected, chiefly because of the degree of linguistic expertise required, at the level of the regional groups. The Japan Library Group was fortunate in securing funds from the Japan Foundation for the purchase of books, and set up a national co-operative scheme for the acquisition of Japanese vernacular literature. The funds are used for expenditure on materials which member libraries would not otherwise buy. Again, it is noticeable that co-operative acquisition succeeds better as a supplementary, not an alternative, form of purchase. Subject specialisation within area studies is taken into account. Stirling University Library, for example, received a grant through the Group for building up its resources on Japanese philosophy and religion.

The South-East Asia Library Group broadened its membership at an early stage in the 1960s to include European libraries, since resources in Britain were so limited. The French and the Dutch libraries in particular contributed expertise in Indo-chinese and Indonesian studies which could not be rivalled in Britain. Member libraries sought to build on strength, and a co-operative acquisitions programme was attempted. Two ways of acquiring elusive material from the far east were explored, with moderate

success. Firstly, members of staff, whether teaching staff or library staff, who were visiting South East Asia would purchase material on behalf of all members of the Group while they were away. Secondly, an arrangement was made for a supplier in Vietnam to send books within certain defined fields to the University of Kent, where a member of the Group distributed them tc other libraries according to their agreed interests. The limitation of both these schemes was not the enthusiasm of the participants but the infrequency of opportunity and the hazards of political circumstance.

Consideration of networks operating a co-operative acquisitions policy successfully over a number of years cannot omit to mention SCOLMA, the Standing Conference of Library Materials on Africa, founded in 1962. Its aims included "the defining of present acquisitions policies of member libraries and their co-ordinated planned acquisitions." In 1966 its Area Specialisation Scheme began, with libraries undertaking to collect material each from one or more African country so that the whole of the African continent would be covered. The success of the scheme was reviewed in 1969 and has undergone minor reorganisation and some change in membership. Some members have been disenchanted by the difficulty of acquisition when bibliographical information from Africa is hard to come by, and when the material which they did acquire lies unused in their libraries. Co-operative acquisition never succeeds easily without supplementary earmarked funds, because it is often acquisition in defiance of current demand.

Yet in the last twenty years the groups of libraries seeking to co-ordinate the development of special collections have vastly improved the coverage of elusive and rare materials and done much to secure research resources for the future. The use of the new technology by library networks will ensure the fuller exploitation of the collections themselves and enable librarians to use their diminishing acquisitions budgets to best advantage. Users will be more easily directed to the books they need, donors to the libraries they can benefit, disused stock to more appropriate repositories, with the new flexible control which networks can provide. Yet there are limits to the direction which can be given by the best intentioned co-operative acquisitions programme. A special collection needs a locally receptive environment, an ongoing tradition of use, and a continuing awareness of its potential in its immediate keeper, if it is to be valued as it deserves.

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Division for Universal Research Libraries

Section for University Libraries

STANDARDS AND NORMATIVES OF LIBRARIES OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE USSR

Avalova N.S.
Director of the Research Library
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Moscow, 1982

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As L.I.Brezhnev pointed out [illegible], the main duty and honorary mission of the higher school is to train specialists worthy of our epoch, true organizers and mentors of the people, patriots and internationalists, who are proficient in the fundamentals of contemporary science and notable for their profound communist persuasion and high moral qualities*).

The libraries of higher schools contribute impressively to the training of specialists. These libraries promote the learning process, research and ideological activities of the institution. The library of a higher educational institution actively contributes to the communistic education of the students and to the raising of the moral and cultural standards of young specialists. In our country there are 883 higher schools, in other words 883 libraries of higher schools, which serve over 6.6 mill. readers, 80% of whom are students. The stocks of these libraries run to more than 481.6 mill. volumes. If we compare the number of libraries of higher schools with the overall library network of the country, which covers 360 thous. libraries, we will find that they occupy a comparitively modest place, as they make up only 0.2% of the total figure. Nevertheless, if we turn to the collections of these libraries we will see that they hold approximately 1/10 of total library resources. They account for 10% of the total delivery by libraries of books, journals and other types of printed matter to users.

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*) "Pravda", December 21, 1977.

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In all higher educational institutions, including universities, functions a uniform network of libraries, which includes libraries of departments, faculties and other subdivisions of the institutions. They are headed by the central library. The library of a higher school realizes centralized acquisition and processing of literature and provides a differentiated library service for readers in accordance with their categories and the types of publications they need.

The Decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU "On the raising of the role of libraries in the communist education of the working people and scientific and technical progress" (May, 1974) and the Order of the USSR Ministry of Higher Education. "On the consolidation of the role of libraries in the teaching process and research activity of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions" (August, 1974) have imposed upon the libraries of higher schools the task of improving the organization of labour and management of libraries, which is to a substantial degree supported by the system of management documents.

This report describes the main regulating documents, including standards and normatives, which determine the activities of libraries of institutions of higher learning.

Libraries of higher schools develop their activities in keeping with documents on different levels: state, departmental and local (library).

The limits of this report make it impossible to discuss all documents, which deal with the activity of libraries of higher schools and, therefore, we will dwell only on some of them.

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Libraries of higher schools represent a component of the uniform library system of the country and, therefore, in their work they are guided by general library documents which, according to V.V.Serov, are "in keeping with the Decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU on librarianship (1974) and approved by the Council of Ministers of the USSR, a number of ministries, departments, social organizations, and the State Interdepartmental Library Committee and are, therefore, of a State, interdepartmental and obligatory nature"+). To these documents pertain decrees, acts, statutes, instructions on library technique, standards, normatives, etc. Thus, the Decree of the State Committee for Labour and Social Problems of the USSR Council of Ministers and the Secretariat of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions attributed libraries, including libraries of higher schools, regardless of their departmental subordination, to five groups of payment of labour of the senior personnel and specialists, going by the significance of the libraries in the system of library and information service, the volume of research and methodological work they perform and the level of their readers' service. For instance, the methodological centre for the libraries of higher schools of the country, the Research Library of the Moscow State University, pertains, in the terms of wages it pays its employees, to the highest group. Libraries, the activities of which have substantial importance for the development of science, technical progress and commu-

+) Serov V.V. Sovershentsvovaniye systemy bibliotek v razvitom sotsialistichiskom obshstve. M., 1981. p.237.

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nist education of working-people, the average annual readership of which exceeds 50 thous. individuals and the annual average delivery of books runs to more than 1.5 mill. volumes in the payment of their personnel, belong to the first group. Other groups, to which libraries are attributed according to the wages they pay, are determined by lower indexes in the number of readers they serve and the number of books they issue to them.

An important State document, concerning all libraries was the "Qualification characteristics of posts held by employees of cultural and educational institutions" approved by the State Committee for Labour and Social Problems of the USSR Council of Ministers, which guaranteed uniformity in the determination of the official duties of these employees and in qualification demands made of them. This document provided the basis for the development of official instructions of libraries. In activities, involved with the processing and handling of stocks, the "Regulations on the building up of collections of research and technical libraries, "approved by the State Committee for Science and Technology and the USSR Ministry of Culture in 1978, which defines the content of work in the field of acquisition, and the "Instructions on the preservation of library stock", approved by the USSR Ministry of Culture and the Secretariat of All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions in 1962, are also highly important. Rational organization, storage and use of library collections and their balanced distribution among the principal economic/geographical districts of the country are ensured by the "Decree on the organization of de-

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pository storage of book stocks of the libraries of the country", approved by USSR Ministry of Culture, the State Committee for Science and Technology, the USSR Academy of Sciences and USSR Ministry of Higher Education. As standards are becoming an objective necessity, standardization is being introduced on a rising scale in libraries belonging to all systems and departments.

"Standardization is not only an important means, which ensures efficiency, reliability and economy in the main library/bibliographical processes and types of activity, but the organizational and technical basis for the expansion and cooperation of all units of library systems and STI systems both on the national and international level"[+]).

In the USSR standardization in librarianship and bibliography began to be realized in the 60s. This period was marked by the beginning of the development of a complex of standards known under the general title "System of information/Bibliographical documentation" (State standard - GOST-7). One of the first subjects of standardization was the bibliographical description. To this aspect of standardization belong "Description of printed matter in bibliographical and information publications (GOST 7.1-69)"; "Description of periodicals for catalogues (GOST 7.2-69)"; "Description of books for catalogues (GOST 7.3-69)"; "Cataloguing rules for special types of technical documentation (GOST 7-13-70)" . Later with due regard for

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[+]) Khrenkova A. Standarty v bor'be za kachestvo. - Bibliotekar', 1977, No.7, p.66.

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current international requirements and the tendency towards the expansion of standards the standard "Bibliographical description of printed matter" (GOST 7.1.-76) was adopted. Besides this standards for different elements of the bibliographical entry were developed including those for the abbreviation of titles of journals, typical words, word combinations, etc.

It should be pointed out that with the creation of the interdepartmental committee for standardization in the field of organization, methods and means, scientific and technical information, librarianship and bibliography, and editorial and publishing activities, regular work in this direction was begun. The membership of this committee included specialists from the State Committee for Science and Technology, The USSR Ministry of Culture, the USSR Committee for Standards and a number of other ministries and departments.

The interdepartmental committee for standardization prepared the draft of the "Main regulations of standardization in the field of scientific and technical information, librarianship and bibliography, and editing and publishing" (approved by the Committee for Standards in 1978 in agreement with the State Committee for Science of Technology, the USSR Ministry of Culture and the State Committee for Publishing).

This document, the first of its kind in world practice, determines the ways of the further development of standardization in the aforementioned fields and establishes the order of coordination, planning and organization of these activities. A second basic document is the "Programme of complex standardi-

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zation in the field of information, librarianship and publishing (SIBID)" for 1980, 1981-1985, according to which planning, development and introduction of standards is being accomplished since 1980. This programme, as a part of the State plan of economic and social development of the USSR for the five-year period, envisages the preparation of approximately a hundred titles of normative/technical documents, including over 50 State standards. The head organizations responsible for the implementation of SIBID and the development of these subsystems have been approved. Among them are the All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information, All-Union Committee for Publishing, the State Public Library for Science and Technology, the Saltykov-Shchedrin Public Library and basic organizations dealing with standardization.

As of January 1, 1982 the SIBID system contains 33 State standards. The introduction of a standard represents the final result and according to GOST 1.0-68 means "the realization of measures, ensuring the meeting of demands, established by the standard, in accordance with the field of its application" which leads to the high quality of performed work.

The librarians of the country widely participate in the development of standards as the first draft of them is sent for discussion to 200-250 libraries of different systems and departments and STI bodies. The Research Library of the Moscow University, as the central library in the system of libraries of higher schools of the country, takes part in the editing and discussion of drafts of State standards on the behalf of the entire system.

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Currently over 20 standards are directly connected with the activities of universal, special, scientific and technical libraries. We shall dwell only on a few standards, which have been introduced in recent years.

Standardization of terminology represents one of the central directions of the joint activity of specialists in different branches of science and technology. The first terminological standard in the field of librarianship GOST 7.26-80 "Librarianship. Main terms and definitions", worked out by the State Lenin Library, the Moscow State Institute of Culture, the Saltykov=Shchedrin Public Library, The State Public Library for Science and Technology and the All=Union Research Institute of Technical Information, Classification and Coding, was introduced in January 1982 with the aim of establishing uniform classified terms, which meet the requirements of science and facilitate the mutual understanding of specialists.

The first standard in the field of stocktaking "Inventory units for libraries and scientific and technical information bodies" was introduced in 1981. It was developed by the State Lenin Library, the State Public Library for Science and Technology and the All=Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information. The introduction of this GOST promotes the unification of stocktaking of book collections of libraries and STI bodies belonging to different systems and departments, improves the organization of stocktaking, planning and book=keeping. Since 1969 all libraries in the country worked in accordance with the "Regulations concerning the uniform State system of interlibrary loan in the USSR". The State standard 7.31-81

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"Uniform State system of interlibrary loan" established the main rules, structure and the order of functioning of the uniform State system of interlibrary loan, the list of All=Union centres for interlibrary loan, new requirements made of the order form. Both standards are binding for libraries and STI bodies.

In 1980 the GOST "Directories of libraries and scientific and technical information bodies" was introduced into the system of standards. This was the first effort in the field of standardization of such guidebooks with the aim of raising the effectiveness of exchange of data on libraries and scientific/technical information bodies both inside the country and abroad.

Among other State standards, which have already been introduced into the practice of libraries of higher educational institutions the following deserve special mention: "Trade catalogs. General requirements" (1980); "Scientific information activity. Main terms and definitions" (1980); "Bibliographical description of printed music" (1979); "Bibliographical description of cartographical works (1979), etc.

Apart from general State documents, the activity of libraries of higher educational institutions is determined by documents of departmental character. A uniform policy in the work of these libraries is determined by the Central Scientific and Methodological Library Committee (SCMLC) of the USSR Ministry of Higher Education. Its membership consists of directors of the largest university libraries and libraries of other higher educational institutions. Prepared documents are discussed at the meetings of the Presidium of the CSMLS and are later app-

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roved by the USSR Ministry of Higher Education and become binding for all. Thus the practice of libraries of higher educational institutions is determined by the "Decree on the library of a higher educational institution", which was approved by the USSR Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education. This Decree says that the library of a higher educational institution is an educational, scientific, information, ideological and cultural division of the institution of higher learning, which offers library and information/bibliographical services to students, post=graduates, members of the faculty, engineers and other technical workers. The Decree determines the duties of the library. The library is headed by the director, who is subordinate to the rector of the institution. The staff of the library is subordinate to the director of the library. The official duties of the employees and the requirements made of their knowledge and education are determined by official instructions, which are approved by the director of the library.

A methodological committee, administration council and library council are organized within the library.

The library council is created for the coordination of the work of the library with the academic activity of the higher educational institution. The library works in close contact with the departments, faculty members and social organizations. The administration of the higher educational institution provides the library with the necessary office and industrial premises in keeping with the standards in force, with reprographic technique and other equipment. The maintenance costs of the library are envisaged in the general

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estimate of the higher educational institution. A substantial sum is allotted to the library for the purchase of books for the support of the academic process and the scientific work of the institution. Not a single college library is in want of money and buys literature, necessary for the academic process, practically for every student. The composition of the book collection of a college library is determined by the specialization of the institution, the tasks of the library and the readers' demands.

As a rule the boook collections of libraries of this category hold scientific and instructional literature, fiction, reference works, maps, atlases, dissertations, microfilms, microfiches, etc. Foreign literature is also well represented. Acquisition is realized in accordance with the curricula. Books are ordered on the basis of thematic plans of publishing houses. The main document dealing with acquisition is the subject/typological plan for acquisition, which is developed by the specialists of the library and the leading scientists of the higher educational institution. It is a structural model of the collection, which reflects the types of publications and the number of copies of books by themes in keeping with the contingent of the institution. Many large college libraries receive deposit copies of publications in keeping with the acquisition policy, which ensures the comprehensiveness of their collections.

A model structure for separate types of libraries, beginning with the second group in terms of the wages they pay their employees (the number of readers should be over 10 thousand and the book circulation run to 600 thous. volumes) has by the

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order of the USSR Ministry for Higher and Special Secondary Education been developed and approved. The structure envisages the division for rare books and manuscripts, specialized divisions, scientific/technical information and scientific/methodological divisions, the sector for automation and mechanization of library/bibliographical processes and other divisions, providing readers with books, laboratories, work=shops and other divisions.

With the increase in the number of users and the growth of the collection of literature beyond the established normatives additional members of the staff are employed by specialized divisions, which are located separately, in accordance with the group of the library. Libraries,which act as methodological centres of the city, can also employ additional personnel. "Regulations concerning the divisions of libraries of higher educational institutions", approved by the USSR Ministry of Higher Education, define the tasks and functions of divisions, their interaction with other divisions, their rights and responsibility. The "Instructions dealing with library technique", approved by the same Ministry, define the technological processes in the library, their order, the existence of documents and a reference system in the acquisition and stocktaking, the procession of literature. These Instructions envisage the existence of alphabetical and classified catalogs of the main and auxiliary collections and the maintaining of the subject catalogue in cases when it is necessary. The Instructions also envisage the existence of equipment for the serving of readers in divisions of instructional and scientific literature and in reading rooms.

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Library regulations are drawn up on the basis of "Model regulations for the use of the library of a higher educational institution" approved by the USSR Ministry of Higher Education. Instructional literature is issued to the reader for the entire academic year and scientific literature is given out for two months.

Another normative document, which reflects the organization of the reference system of the instructional collection, is the letter of the USSR Ministry of Higher Education "Card catalogue of book provision".

The task of libraries of institutions of higher learning consists in the broad revealing of their stocks and open access promotes this. This service is regulated by the instructive and methodological letter of the Ministry "On the organization of open access to book collections of libraries of higher educational institutions".

Another letter of the USSR Ministry of Higher Education "Organization of group service of students through the loan of text=books and instructional materials" was issued with the aim of improving the service of users in the college library.

The analysis of the activity of any library, including the college library, is impossible without the determination of its quantitative characteristics. For libraries of higher educational institutions the main indexes of their work, technique for the calculation of indexes, rules of planning, the preparation of reports and their structure have been worked out. All this is reflected in methodological recommendations "Library statistics. The drawing up of the annual plan and report of a library

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of a higher educational institution". For the analysis and comparison of the activities of college libraries over 60 indexes are used including the number of readers, number of books given out to them, number of thematic displays, size of the book stock, book turn=over, etc. Rational use of working time founded on norms, which have been developed for the main library, bibliographical and information processes in these libraries, provides the basis for the working out of plans. Norms of libraries of other systems and departments are also used. At present the USSR Ministry of Culture, the Central Bureau for Standard Labour, the State Lenin Library, together with other libraries of different systems and departments, including college libraries, have worked out "Model norms of time spent on the performance of the principal types of work by employees of libraries of different types", which after their approval by the State Committee for Labour and Social Problems of the Council of Ministers of the USSR will be binding for libraries of different systems and departments. Rate setting in libraries helps to raise the productivity of labour, reveal reserves of labour time and improve technological processes.

According to established building standards, adopted in 1978, buildings for college libraries are designed on the basis of 100% of number of students, post=graduates, faculty members and scientific workers. The number of seats in reading rooms of libraries of universities, pedagogical and medical institutes and institutes of art make up 15% of the total number of library users.

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Normatives also envisage the size of the stocks of the library of the higher educational institution, which in universities, pedagogical, medical and other educational institutions are reckoned on the basis 125 units of the library collection per each user.

Much attention is given to the automation of library and information/bibliographical processes. This problem is being solved on the State level and within the frame=work of the college with an automatic management system=college=library system. Computers in the high schools are used for the input of new acquisitions received by the library, with the aim of creating inventory books, information control, lists of recommended literature, analysis of library usage, etc. The problem still awaits its final solution.

Besides State and departmental documents used by the college library, each library has its own documents to which belong the statutes of the library, regulations concerning different divisions and sectors, technological and official instructions. The work of employees is regulated not only be official instructions, but by inner labour rules, too. They deal with the order of employment and discharge of library employees, specific conditions of labour, labour time and how it is used, the main duties of the administration in the field of consolidation of labour discipline and material stimulation of employees.

Technological documentation occupies an important place in the organization of labour among which the documents "The way of the book during the processing", "Way of readers' requests for books", "Regulations concerning catalogs" "Rules

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of the research library" are particularly important.

In this way, the activity of libraries is firmly regulated by the system of State, departmental and local documents and this makes it possible to solve the tasks imposed upon Soviet libraries of institutions of higher learning, improve technological processes and the organization of labour and management of libraries.

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Regional Networks and the System of supra-regional resource sharing in the Federal Republic of Germany: Some problems of planning and realization

by

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1. Introduction

In the Federal Republic of Germany there are several regional networks of academic libraries. Their main activity is shared cataloguing. This paper deals with some problems arising with the planning and establishing of these regional networks.

It is not intended, however, to treat problems of shared cataloguing in general, nor should be given a detailed description of networks in operation - there are several publications about these topics -, I should rather discuss some special features of the development in my own country, which might be of some interest to others as well.

Networks of libraries may be viewed in two different ways, first from overhead, from the standpoint of the planner or network-strategist - an approach which is dominating at international conferences -, secondly from below, from the view of one of the member libraries, which hopes that participation in the network will facilitate and improve its services to the reader.

Though I have been chairman of the committee concerned with the planning and advancement of regional networks in the Federal Republic of Germany in the past six years, I shall now try to adopt the point of view of the participant of a network: Networks in general do not work for its own sake, though it sometimes looks like; libraries join networks for the purpose of providing better services to their users than before.

But first of all it seems necessary to review the German library scene in brief.

2. Library networks in the Federal Republic of Germany

Library networks, encompassing the entire range of co-operative library activities, are characteristics of German library history in the past hundred years. Mainly two motives can be named for this feature:

First: The Federal Republic of Germany is - as its name says - a federal state, in which the competence for legislation and administration is distributed among Federal Government, the 11 Bundesländer (states) and the local authorities.

The competence for science, cultural affairs and education is primarily with the Bundesländer, which therefore are responsible for the universities and the university libraries as well. The budget of public libraries comes from local

authorities. Neither the historical development nor the constitution of the Federal Republic have permitted the establishment of a National Library with a comprehensive coverage of literature and the responsibility for a centralized and strongly coordinated system of library service.

Librarians and libraries however have tried hard in the hundred years past to overcome local and regional particularism as well as the confusing variety of German libraries by developing a co-operative system of supra-regional library service to scientific research.

Secondly: The results of World War I (1914-18) and their economic consequences had handicapped the building of collections very much: Many foreign books and periodicals could not be bought. In World War II many libraries were destroyed and millions of books lost. Without a strong and efficient cooperation, which surpassed local and regional limits, academic libraries would not have recovered in relatively short time and succeeded in providing literature in a fairly adequate coverage,

Most of the co-operatives have been described in detail serveral times , and prominent representatives of German libraries have presented papers about them at IFLA-meetings. Therefore only some hints are given at some examples (1):

- The "Sondersammelgebietsplan" of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Association) as a co-operative purchasing scheme with decentralized collections forms a major part of the supra-regional system of resource sharing: While the basic and frequently used books are to be provided by local resources, very specialised, particularly foreign material, which might be of interest to a smaller group of scholars only, should be collected at least in one copy by an academic library in the Federal Republic of Germany and made available by inter-library lending to any researcher, whereever he is working in this country. This service is ensured by the libraries participating in the supra-regional special subject's program: Further to their local and regional functions they have the task of achieving complete coverage of the subjects involved independently of the immediate needs of the local readers and by th contributing to the national this co-operative system of resource-sharing (2).

  The "Sondersammelgebietsplan", originally started as an instrument to overcome severe shortages of funds and collections, afterwards more serving as a system of canalizing the overflow of literature from all over the

world, again is going to become an "emergency or rescue plan" now, while library budgets are cut down seriously.

Four "Zentrale Fachbibliotheken" (central back-up libraries: for engineering science at Hannover, for medicine at Cologne, for economics at Kiel, and for agriculture at Bonn), the Staatsbibliotheken at Berlin and München, and 15 University libraries (besides several special libraries) take the burden of the special subject collections and are therefore supported by earmarked financial grants of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. The four back-up libraries are holding about 47.000 periodicals, the other libraries participating in the scheme about 28.000 additional periodicals; more than 75.000 to 100.000 monographs are collected annually.

- As decentralised co-operative purchasing networks and union catalogues have to go hand in hand, seven "Zentralkataloge" (Regional Union Catalogues) have been established since 1950 in the Federal Republic of Germany (in Berlin, Frankfurt a.M., Göttingen, Hamburg, Köln, München, Stuttgart) instead of a comprehensive national union catalogue, which could have been a substitute of the famous "Deutsche Gesamtkatalog", which was lost during the war. The Regional Union Catalogues to-day comprise about 44 million cards sorted alphabetically by author and title and containing more than 97 million holdings of participating libraries.

- The seven Regional Union Catalogues serve as steering tools for the "Deutsche Leihverkehr" (interlibrary lending-service), which is therefore divided into seven lending areas. Most of the 2 million order-forms, sent out by libraries in the Federal Republic of Germany annually, are checked by the Regional Union Catalogues and forwarded to other libraries, which serve the orders by borrowing the books wanted or sending copies. In some areas a regional inter-library lending service of public libraries complements the "Deutsche Leihverkehr"; though these subsystems are run separately, they have some crossings with the general inter-library lending service.

- Beside the Regional Union Catalogues, which include entries mainly of monograph titles and holdings, the "Zeitschriftendatenbank" (supra-regional Serial Data Base) in Berlin, maintained by the Staatsbibliothek and the Deutsche Bibliotheksinstitut in Berlin, is winning an ever increasing significance for the location of periodicals' holdings in academic libraries of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Serials Data Base now comprises about 270.000 serial titles with about 800.000 holdings in about 40 participating libraries (3).

There would be other examples for co-operatives or networks which could give evidence that German academic libraries presumably can't imagine any more how an effective library service for scientific research could work without co-operatives, but this paper should not become comprehensive. Common to all these different co-operatives is the fact that most of them have started on a voluntary basis and only afterwards were taken over by governmental authorities (4).

Though the Bundesländer (states) - as was pointed out - have the responsibility for most of the academic libraries, in particular for the university libraries and their co-operatives as well, the regional authorities have realized that even in a federal state there should be institutions, which perform supra-regional functions, and that there should be a national responsibility for planning and co-ordinating the different and differing activities of library services in the Bundesländer. Federal Government and the regional authorities therefore have accepted the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft which is independent in its work, though it is jointly supported by the Federal Government and the Länder, takes care of the supra-regional provision of library material for scientific research, co-ordinates co-operative planning and - last not least - gives financial support to all measures recommended. The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft is the only supra-regional institution since 1949, in which planning, co-ordination and financial support of library services lies in one hand.

However the establishment of regional computer networks for academic libraries as one project of the generous and beneficial policy of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft should only be treated in this paper.

3. The Recommendations for the development of regional networks and for the establishment of Regional Library Centers

The beginning of Automatic Data Processing (ADP) in German academic libraries showed no intention at all to form networks; on the contrary the university libraries founded in the sixties (i.e. Bochum, Regensburg, Konstanz, Bremen, Bielefeld etc.) which made use of computers for some or all of their activities, had developped their systems with a purely local environment in mind though they were designed as "pilot projects".

Planners only gradually experienced that

- development and maintenance of programs in software-packages of high complexity have become too complicated and too expensive for one library only,
- data-processing of MARC-records by machine resources of the computer center of the university could not be ensured sufficiently,

- data-processing could be made more efficient and economical by resource sharing in networks, particularly because several participating libraries would have simultaneous and direct access to a central data base comprising externally produced data as well as catalogue records produced by member libraries.

At the beginning of the seventies some ADP-development plans were elaborated for the libraries of one or the other Bundesland. These plans in general concentrated on measures how to co-ordinate the activities of the individual libraries by forming a regional network. The needs and existing arrangements of the region were constituent for the plans, whereas the necessity of co-operation of all regions was stated but not taken into account at that time.

Beside the growing understanding among librarians the promotion of documentation and information by the Federal Government has stimulated the idea of a nation-wide scheme. While the academic libraries cannot be influenced by measures of the Federal Government very much, it has concentrated on the organization and development of the I&D-scene. For some time now a task force of the Gesellschaft für Information und Dokumentation mbH (Society for Information and Documentation, GID) is elaborating plans for a comprehensive national network ODIN, an integration of information retrieval and document supply activities linked to EURONET/DIANE. The improvement of information retrieval facilities by on-line access to information networks request the advancement of the traditional system of document provision by inter-library lending routines. The user should have quick access not only to the bibliographical reference but also to the pertaining document itself, and this access should be given by "one hand". Planning of the ODIN network, in which the specialized information enters (FIZ) of the I&D-program , the book-trade and the libraries should participate, exemplifies the disadvantage of distributed responsibilities in our federal state in a field,where joint endeavours were necessary and useful (5).

Here again the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, to be more precise: the Subcommittee for ADP in libraries of the Bibliotheksausschuß (Library Committee) has tried to fill the gap and to elaborate a comprehensive plan, the "Empfehlungen" (Recommendations) published in 1980 (6).

The major recommendations are:
1) to establish on-line networks of libraries within the the seven traditional inter-library lending areas,
2) to establish a Regional Library Center with the function of a central service unit to all member libraries and equipped with sufficient computer capacity, and
3) to organize the co-operation with the other Regional Library Centers.

The Regional Library Centers (RBZ) should perform their functions in the fields of a) service, b) development, c) co-ordination and planning, and by running the computer installed.

The network should have two different purposes: On one hand it should improve and facilitate library work in each of the libraries by optimizing their capability through automation ; on the other hand it should build up a central data base of bibliographical records and locations, i.e. a computerized union catalogue of the holdings of member libraries in the region. In co-operation with the other Centers it should participate in the supra-regional provision of documents for scientific research. In so far the Regional Library Centers not only work as regional service units but also as members of a national network.

Some of the services are to be:

- compilation and provision of large central files of catalogue records for the purpose of shared cataloguing,
- use of externally produced data by adding them to the file already maintained,
- central processing of bibliographical and local data for the participating libraries,
- maintaining of catalogues for each of the participating libraries,
- compiling catalogues of the holdings of one or more than one library either in part or totally,
- central revision, correction and standardization of all data provided by co-operative cataloguing,
- maintaining a central union catalogue for the purpose of forwarding orders of the Deutsche Leihverkehr etc.
- participation in future automated document ordering systems.

The Centers should also be responsible for the development and maintenance of standardized software to be used for network operations as well as for the peripheral hardware equipment in the libraries and the autonomous circulation systems.

The Centers should organize the network activities, procure standardized hardware equipment, decide on cataloguing rules and standards of bibliographical and local data in order to ensure compatibility and portability. They should also consult the member libraries regularly and train the library staff.

The regional networks are open to public libraries, too. The Regional Library Centers should co-operate closely
- with the Deutsche Bibliothek as the National Bibliographic Center,
- with the supra-regional Serials Data Base,
- with each other,
- with the institutions of the I&D-program.

The regional networks can, of course, be established only step by step. However they should be realized almost simultaneously in order to avoid disproportions. The "Empfehlungen" have been discussed thoroughly and have found wide response and appreciation by federal and state authorities as well, who are apparently determined to promote the Regional Library Centers inspite of - or due to - the rigorous cuttings of funds. Regional networks have come to be operational in Bavaria, Hesse, Lower Saxony, and Northrhine-Westphalia, i.e. four of seven possible. Instead of describing the working of these regional networks (7), some problems and controversies will be discussed in the following.

4. Critique of the "Recommendations": National network versus regional networks (8)

The "Recommendations" have been criticized: The opportunity would have been wasted to establish a uniform centralized supra-regional network for all academic libraries in the Federal Republic of Germany; large national networks were established in other countries in spite of the federal structure and independent of regional boundaries. The success of OCLC should be taken as an example, it is said without mentioning however the fundamental difference between. A supra-regional network could be realized technically and would work more economically than seven regional networks, where the same expenditure of hardware, software and staff would be necessary seven times, though the requirements of all libraries would be the same. The example of the supra-regional "Zeitschriftendatenbank" could demonstrate, how co-operative cataloguing would work effectively on a nation-wide basis. A large national system would have the advantage of doing the work of data capturing, storing and maintaining only once, not several times, and therefore would reduce the costs.

When comparing networks one should bear in mind that they may have quite different aims and functions, which could make them nearly uncomparable: the regional networks in the Federal Republic of Germany for example are data management systems with the purpose of maintaining library catalogues and not data recall systems with the purpose of producing single records on catalogue cards.

Furthermore it has to be taken into account that there seems to be no chance for a German academic library of joining commercial networks and to buy the production of its catalogues from a profit-making firm, which offers its services in competition. There is no open market yet for ADP-network services to libraries in Germany.

The academic libraries therefore continue to depend on financial support of the states, and it is a truism that he who gives the money has the saying. The considerable

pains necessary to coordinate the requirements and demands of the libraries-individual, traditional, critical, sometimes stubborn libraries - in a network and to motivate those not yet participating, these pains will apparently have more success in the more limited environments of a Bundesland and in smaller groups of libraries than in the larger size of a nation-wide network, particularly since a supervisory institution is missing that could make the libraries work together.

For the time being there is no supra-regional institution that could organize a national network. Certainly there is the Deutsche Bibliothek in Frankfurt acting as a National Bibliographic Center that offers the records of the German national bibliography according to the official cataloguing rules and the standards for the exchange of bibliographic data not only by magnetic tapes but also via BIBLIODATA for on-line access and retrieval. The Deutsche Bibliothek (9) however does not intend to maintain a German union catalogue with the holdings of all major libraries, nor does it want to compile catalogues for one or another individual library. Therefore the Regional Library Centers will have to continue the functions of the thirty years old and manually maintained Regional Union Catalogues for the purpose of inter-library lending by other means.

The "Recommendations" do not at all exclude a gradual growing up of a supra-regional network, if there should be any realistic chance for an efficient solution. The Recommendations - and this is worthwhile to know - do not care for that which is technically possible, but for that which can actually be realized right now in a relative short period of time and with funds being available presumably in the near future. Looking at existing political, legal, technical and administrative arrangements all arguments are for the establishing of regional networks.

So far one can be sure now that not seven different solutions will be found independently from each other, because there are only three (or two) software-packages which would be suitable to operate a network, one offered by a commercial software house, another one by a manufacturer of mainframe computers, and the third one by one of the Regional Library Centers. The small number of possible solutions makes the regional networks work together, and this co-operation tends to become even much closer in the future. On the other hand the question may be raised whether it might be appropriate and advisable to develop and advance only one large network, on which the cataloguing departments of all academic libraries were completely dependent, particularly since nobody could ensure that the system - not under the economic pressure of profit making - really would work efficiently, would meet the requirements and demands of the participating libraries and would offer solutions that guarantee flexibility and openness to the novelties of the future.

Regarding appropriateness, practicability, and economic efficiency, the planning of regional networks is based on existing arrangements and profits from the feeling of solidarity to be found in smaller groups of libraries.

5. Some problems seen from the aspect of a participating library

Which are the reasons that motivate an university library, if it is not compelled by law or by order, to participate in a network? First of all any co-operation in networks should have as its aim the improvement of services to the user. One of the most spectacular improvements is done by providing users with information about the holdings of member libraries by direct accessing machine readable files or by using a union catalogue produced by COM: The so far manually maintained and remotely held Regional Union Catalogue is coming into the house.

The preparing and maintaining of library catalogues will be facilitated, too; externally produced records can be used, the length of time needed for processing of library material will be shortened, the quality and quantity of catalogues may be improved.

Departmental libraries spread over the campus or the city can be equipped with copies of COM-catalogues or may have on-line access to the union catalogue: The whole library system of a university may profit from these achievements.

However there are several problems that should be seen by a library, before it determines to joint a network:

1) The library is loosing a greater or smaller part of its autonomy. It can no more decide in its own competence, if it should prepare mini-catalogues or use full bibliographic description. Quality and quantity of catalogues, which the library wants to present to its readers, are influenced by the other member libraries and decided upon by the Regional Library Center. These circumstances may lead to conflicts with the library committee and/or the faculties' staff of the university who might request some other kind of catalogues or have other priorities of demands, not to speak of librarians, who are firmly convinced that their catalogue entries are much better than those externally produced by others and that their tailor-made library is unique. Each library therefore should thoroughly investigate in advance, whether the loss of a certain independence will bring more advantages than disadvantages to their users.

2) To reduce the state of dependence from the performance of a large mainframe computer at the Regional Library Center, to cut the costs of telecommunications and to arrange for

the storing and maintaining of local data being of immediate interest (acquisition data, availability of holdings, budget control etc.), participating libraries in most of the networks are equipped with peripheral hardware: A mini-computer with storage capacity on discs and VDU screens. This distributed peripheral hardware (different in size and capacity) will meet the following requirements:

- data gathering system for the keyboarding at several VDU screens and concentrator for the operation of teleprocessing,
- interactive dialogue with the mainframe computer for the purpose of search, data input and possible amendment of records,
- interactive dialogue with the mini-computer for the input and maintenance of local data,
- storage and maintenance of processing informations,
- print out of records for local use like order-forms, claim-forms, labels etc.
- plausibility checks of data input.

These local sub-systems should be installed according to the demands of the individual library; the maintenance and care of hardware and software however should be excercised by the Regional Library Center. It can be anticipated that several problems will be caused by the peripheral hardware equipment of libraries, for instance by the difficulties of synchronous maintenance of distributed data-bases and their corresponding updating. A certain risk of centrifugal forces in the network caused by the running of subsystems in the individual libraries can not be denied, too. The advantages, however, of decentralized or local hardware intelligence seem to be evident.

3) A very high standardization of bibliographical and local data is inevitable and specially significant for the data input in order to ensure that the large central files are free of redundancy as far as possible. This basic requirement is right for any form of co-operative cataloguing, but in our country it seems to be more complicated by the fact that many German university libraries have to change from one system of catalguing rules to the other, i.e. from the "Preußischen Instruktionen" to the "Regeln für den Alphabetischen Katalog in wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken" (Rules for the Alphabetical Catalogue in academic libraries, RAK-WB). The junction of introducing new cataloguing-rules, of introducing ADP, and of participating in a network is raising serious problems to the staff, particularly since each of these changes would not be without problems. More than thirty university libraries some of them with large holdings and annual acquisitions are preparing this enormous "hop, skip, and jump" for the period to come.

Nobody should underestimate these problems, and every library should thoroughly investigate whether it should

combine these measures or split them step by step. On the other hand one should not overlook the fact, that the introduction of ADP, even more the joining of a network will supply good arguments for the change of cataloguing rules and the conversion of catalogues, even if users and members of the staff would resist to the changes. In any case each library will need more time than expected.

4. One of the main arguments for the benefit of cataloguing networks is the assumption that it makes it possible or easier to share access to large files of bibliographic records for the selection and possible amendment of catalogue entries for items in the local collection, and that this performance would avoid extra work. This may be right, but in our country we are still waiting on reliable investigations of the cost/benefit ratio for the use of externally produced data (10). There are some statistics about the number of hits when searching in remotely held bibliographic files, but we still need the exploration of the expenditure of time and costs required for the search, investigation, selection, possible amendment of a record, the addition of local data and the necessary operations in complex record structures. This expenditure should be compared with the per-unit cost caused by the keyboarding of a primary bibliographic description on the basis of the book itself. Presumably it would not matter much whether the externally produced records come from a bibliographic source or from one of the participating libraries, but here also reliable investigations are still missing.

The cost-benefit-analysis will, of-course, differ in different networks, and the quality of speed, accuracy and reliability have to be taken into account, too. If the advantage of using externally produced data could be shown clearly, libraries would be morewilling to join a network.

For another reason it seems to be important to make the advantages evident: Trade Unions, but staff members also that do not belong to a Union, are afraid of devaluation or depreciation of the work done by cataloguers in general, and even more they fear the elimination of jobs. In libraries, in which protests against the introduction of ADP have not been made so far, a strong resistance against networks may be raised by the intention to use externally produced data.

5) In spite of the growing use of on-line facilities batch-processing will continue to be an important mode of operations, and batch-produced catalogues will remain predominant, no matter whether the output will be on cards, paper-lists or on microfiches by COM. Each university library may have a very distinct demand of author catalogues, shelflists, subject catalogues, KWOC or KWIC catalogues etc. at fixed dates or irregular intervals in varying numbers and forms, and the Center of the network presumably will have pains to set priorities. As many wishes will be unrealizable the Center will have to guarantee a certain standard of output. Each library however should examine whether the network will

actually provide better catalogues than the library had before.

The equipment with a sufficient number of terminals that would enable the users to have direct access to the on-line file seems to be unrealistic in the foreseeable future, though it would only be consequent and advantageous, if we could have the same on-line mode for data input as for data retrieval and could dispense with the other forms of catalogues. But the expenditure of an overall equipment with VDU screens (and subsequently the enlargement of the capacity of the mainframe computer and the peripheral hardware as well, not to speak of inadequate data transmission facilities) would be so costly that university libraries - not only in our country - cannot afford it in the near future. On-line access for the more qualified user beside the "mass use" of various batch-produced catalogues is possible, of course.

6) Some networks are now turning to COM as a suitable mean of data output. COM catalogues can easily be distributed to branch-libraries, and the additional costs for copying the microfiches are fully compensated by the improvement of service. The change from card catalogue to the microfiche catalogue brings about new performances to users and staff. A large number of COM readers will be needed, but the perfect reader which should combine simplicity, robustness, reliability and economy, is not to be found yet. The same applies to the shelving of microfiches, when there are hundreds and thousands of it at the reference desk. Comfortable readers equipped with cassetts and automatic retrieval are still too expensive than to have lots of them for lots of users and microfiches. These difficulties are growing with the number of catalogues not only produced by COM but also by optical filming of large back-files of non-machine readable catalogue cards, sometimes adding several hundreds of fiches, too. One may add the COM of national bibliographics and trade lists. A great number of microfiche catalogues may become a surplus, which cannot be easily surveyed any more and which makes use rather complicated.

7. Another problem, which is peculiar to my country, is going to bring some confusion to staff and to users: The co-operation of the regional networks with the supra-regional Zeitschriftendatenbank (Serials Data Base) has not yet been defined, i.e. nobody unmistakably knows, which material should be in which file and who should be responsible for what. From the point of view of a library participating in both networks the question is to be raised for instance, whether special numbers, supplements, series etc. containing individual title-pages but belonging to the consecutive numbering of a periodical should be included in the catalogue of books provided by the Regional Library Center or in the periodicals' catalogue produced by the supra-regional Serials Data Base. Users of the library may have quite other ideas how this should be done than network-strategists. The same applies

to monograph-series, conference- and progress-reports etc. Increase of per-unit-costs by capturing the same data twice is only one of the consequences. Different ways of split entries in the one or the other file will confuse the user. The worst, however, is the endless chain of corrections and amendments which have to be done in two systems separately. Here again the difficulty of synchronous maintenance of distributed data-bases and of links between one and the other large central file comes up.

As long as the Zeitschriftendatenbank was used only as a union catalogue for inter-library lending purposes only, these difficulties were not to be seen; since it offers to compile serials catalogues which record the holdings of a library either in part or totally, it enters into competition with the regional networks. There should be some emphasis on solving these problems in the near future.

8. Another major problem is the break-off of catalogues caused by the change of rules and forms. The possibilities of conversion of large back-files of non-machine readable data are very limited till now. Libraries will have to maintain and use automated and manually maintained catalogues simultaneously and will continue to do so far a rather long time. The difficulties raised by the break-off of catalogues should not be underestimated.

Libraries with back-files of machine readable data not seldom face the problem of converting these data into the new format of a network. This conversion sometimes cannot be done automatically by transformation programs but must be handled with additional manual and intellectual work. According to experience the conversion of older data (error correction included) will last longer and cost more than expected.

9) Co-operative subject cataloguing seems to be more complicated than the shared maintenance of author catalogues. This applies to the use of subject headings as well as to classified subject catalogues. In the Federal Republic of Germany, where several varying cataloguing rules for the use of subject headingsexist and most of the academic libraries are using tailor-made classification schemes for subject cataloguing and book shelving, the adequate solution is far beyond hope. Co-ordinating the varying applications of rules and schemes in order to obtain a certain uniformity will cause additional efforts.

Some progress, however, has been made. In the Bavarian network the classification scheme of the university library at Regensburg has been adopted by all newly founded university libraries at Augsburg, Bamberg, Bayreuth and Passau. There is a central control of subject headings, too. In Northrhine-Westphalia an uniform classification system for the newly founded university libraries at Duisburg,

Essen, Paderborn, Siegen and Wuppertal was generated and is now maintained by the Regional Library Center.

The Deutsche Bibliothek will presumably start in 1986 to apply a new set of rules for subject headings in the national bibliography, and this method might be adopted by the regional networks, too.

In the meantime some networks produce KWOC or KWIC lists by COM to compensate the lack of classified subject catalogues. Other networks dispense with the idea of a classified union catalogue and take the alternative of keeping the subject catalogues and shelf-lists of the individual libraries separately. Others wait on new developments of information retrieval facilities. Anyhow, he who wants to prepare and maintain a classified union catalogue will have to overcome a veritable mountain of difficulties.

10) Automated circulation control systems have not yet been included in the design of regional networks. Several university libraries are using autonomous systems, which partly are connected with the mainframe computer of the university computing center, partly are being run on mini-computers dedicated for this purpose. Sometimes the automated circulation systems have access to a file of short-title records for the purpose of printing claims for overdues. In some regions standardized circulation systems using the same hardware and software for each library are being developed and maintained, but linking the data captured by the circulation system with the data of the central union catalogue has not yet been accomplished. The integration of both systems remains to the future, i.e. the software of the regional network should contain components of circulation control, document ordering and possibly document delivery, too. The user should be enabled to retrieve the information he wants from a data-base, to locate the documents referred to by direct access to the union catalogues, and finally to order the documents he had selected. The linking and simultaneous updating of these distributed databases on a local, regional and national scale will call for future efforts and considerable ingenuity, because one cannot insert an ordering system into a design that does not allow for one.

6. Conclusion

What are the possible future events for regional networks? The further gradual growing-up of regional networks to supra-regional, even to supra-national networks could be realized by varying ways:

- Sharing of the same software by other networks, which would be enabled to run an almost identical system, which could be connected with the first one etc.;
- Extension of the network by connecting more and more libraries, even those that do not belong to the region;

- Free flow of information by exchange of compatible data with other networks and establishment of circuit switching networks.

In the moment it is rather difficult to forecast which of these ways will be followed. It will depend on the improvement of data transmission facilities, the compatability of hardware and software and last not least on funding and further support.

The question is whether the results will be worth the effort. Will the investment and development costs repay themselves some day? Can libraries afford the ever increasing running costs of the networks in a time when it is going to be more difficult to get support for such major efforts than it was in the seventies? The regional networks in the Federal Republic of Germany cannot answer the question yet, because they are still at the beginning, and an answer, which is reliable, can be given only in retrospect.

One experience, however, has been gained: Many of the sometimes exorbitant demands and utopian wishes that librarians and libraries have when they think of networks will not be fulfilled in the foreseeable future; reductions will be unavoidable.

The experience gained in a distinct region however allows the tentative conclusion that the result has been worth the effort at least once: In Northrhine-Westphalia the foundation and further development of five new university libraries in the seventies would not have been realized in a very short time with a relatively small staff under rather rough conditions when there would not have been a computerized regional network of co-operative acquisition and cataloguing and a Regional Library Center organizing and running the network successfully. The results of this venture of resource sharing are promising (11).

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Chinese Academy of Sciences is the national comprehensive research centre of natural sciences in China. For thirty years since its founding, accompanying the flourish development of science and technology in our country, the library and information services of the Academy is playing an increasingly important role. A fair sized library and information system of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (LISCAS) has now been formed, it includes more than 140 library and information units: the Central Library, i.e. the Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences at Beijing; four regional libraries--Shanghai Library, Wuhan Library, Chengdu Library and Lanzhow Library; 117 library and information divisions belonging to the different institutes which are affiliated to the Academy; and more than 20 library and information divisions set up by the university, factories and experimental stations also affiliated to the Academy. It has in total a staff of more than 2400 members and over 16 million volumes of books in collection. The LISCAS is an important component part of the library and information system in China.

This System has been established based on the principles of centralization, unification and cooperation aiming at the full use of the library and information resources by which to serve the research scientists timely and efficiently. Providing library and information services to the scientists of the Academy is our main role, however with a rich collection, it serves other institutions as well including research institutes, universities, government apparatus and big factories.

The LISCAS was established in 1951, undergoing five periods in

its history of 30 years, namely, an initial stage, a rapid developing stage, readjusting stage, sabotaging stage during the "cultural revolution", followed by the present recover and redeveloping stage. In 1950, under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, there was only a Library Administration and then the Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences was set up in the next year with about only 120 in staff and about one million volumes of books in total, as its basis of this Administration while only about ten libraries were affiliated to the Academy. As the centralized management body of the Academy's library services, purchasing of new books and exchange of publications with foreign countries for all the institutes of the Academy and the training of vocational works for the affiliated institutes were listed as the main items of work of this Library.

In 1956, in response to the Party's call of foward marching of sciences, the Library and information services of the Academy had sped its development in accompanying with the establishment of many new research institutes. The total number of libraries and information units of the Academy in 1959 was more than 120 with a collection of 10 million volumes of books. Then the vocational instructions of these regional libraries and libraries of the different institutes were due to the leadership of the Central Library as it has a key function in construction of the whole System. This Library, under the guidance of the Chinese Academy of Sciences not only sped up its own construction, but also assisted and supported the construction of the regional and institutes' libraries as assisting them to fix their own missions, increase their collections in addition to the constitution of some important regulation. Hence the Library has accomplished in many cases of staffs training and organizing the collaboration and coordination which hasten the unification of our vocational management

system, and also made the library and information services of the Academy an excellent integrate system. The Library has moreover carried out professional trainings and instructions in bibliographical reference service of its affiliated bodies.

In 1960, following the readjusting of the national economy, our library and information services were reduced, in compliance with the structures of scientific research, some of the institutions were readjusted and merged, the basic works of literature service were nevertheless strengthened, we established and completed our rules and regulations, trained staffs in various levels, thus laid the solid foundation for the further development of the library and information system of the Academy.

The "cultural revolution" broke out in 1966, the library and information services of the Academy was severely sabotaged and these forecited established system was interfered and disintegrated for ten years until the "Gang of Four" was smashed in 1976, and then our works were on the way of rejuvenation. Two years after, an Academy's Meeting of Library and Information Services was held, our orientation and mission had been discussed and further defined, the provisional regulations and a long-range programme were worked out. Learned from our own experiences and the new trend of library and information services, it was decided to integrate the system of library and information services as a measure to unify the library and information services in organization and management. And all participated bodies after this Meeting has conscientiously acted in the spirit of the conference, hence sped up the recovering and further development of the Academy's library and information services.

According to our professional practices, to build a good library and information system, the following requirements should be fulfilled.

1. To establish and perfect the management system

To establish and perfect the management system, essentially the proper bodies of appraising, execution and enterprise are indispensable for the establishment of a library and information system. A Committee of Publishing, Library and Information Services has been set up as an assistant for the President of the Academy to direct the library and information services. This Committee consists of the Academy's leaders, some distinguished scientists and representatives of many library and information units, aiming at assisting the Academy's supervisors to investigate, examine and approve such important matters as programs, plans, summarizations, reports, as well as international exchanges and cooperations. It bears the responsibility of instructing the organizations reforms, modernizing its staffs and measures and staffing its institutions. There is an office under the Committee as its administrative body. The Committee including its Office has actually performed a function of the appraising and executive bodies. For some important problems in library and information services of the Academy, the Committee should make suggestions and implement the resolutions and indications given by the Academy's leaders. The Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences is an institution which acts as the centre of library and information services of the Academy, responsible for collecting, sorting, studying and providing the scientific and technical literatures, also responsible for instructing the vocational works, promoting the cooperation and coordination and staffs training. These three bodies were proved acting complementary in functions, the appraising and executive body is "nerve centre" which commands all parts of the system with a definitive direction and being developed harmonically. The institution is the framework by which the system can be formed and operated with facility. For ensuring and promoting the development of

the system, these three bodies should operate smoothly and successfully. Besides, the regional libraries the Academy's branching centres of library and information services were established where many research institutes were located. And each instutute has set up its own library and information division too. The three bodies namely the Central Library, the regional libraries and their own libraries of the institutes constituted the management and organization system of the library and information services of the Academy.

2. To assist and support the construction of the regional libraries and library and information divisions of the different institutes

To assist and support the construction of the regional libraries and the library and information divisions of various institutes is essential for developing and consolidating the library and information system of the Academy. During the developing period of the System, the Central Library had emphasized the construction of the regional libraries and library and information divisions of the institutes, provided them instructions, and also with staff members and a large number of books and periodicals. During 1956-59, the Central Library allocated and transfered 741,841 books and periodicals to more than 100 affiliated institutes, meanwhile trained more than 700 technical staffs, who paved the ways for establishing and developing these units. The Central Library also started professional workshops of seminars and general training courses, and visited and counseled the affliated libraries, and compiling handbooks, textbooks and other professional reference materials. The System has held working meetings irregularly to solve the important problems such as discussions and decisions of the general orientation and task, working programs and regulations, thus ensured the development of the library and information services

of the Academy with a unified direction. In assisting the construction of the affiliated bodies, special attentions should be laid on the construction of the regional libraries by strong supports of funds and personnels, because they are the branching centres, the pivot linking the Central Library and libraries of different institutes.

3. To promote the cooperation and coordination

To promote the cooperation and coordination among the institutions is essential for the founding of the system and sharing the resources. As a first step, the Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has made the coordination in purchasing of the foreign periodicals. The procedures of this were firstly started the regional coordination, followed by their balance and examination by the Central Library for the whole Academy, thus the unnecessary duplicates could be avoided to ensure the systematic holdings of periodicals in complete sets. Some of regional libraries have tried coordinating works in purchasing the conference papers, technical reports and serials. For announcing the comprehensive library collections and trend of scientific research in time, some of the affiliated institutions also compiled lists of new access, union catalogs, special bibliographies, abstracts, indexes, trend of scientific research and also some including translations collections. For different kinds of professional conferences sponsored by the Academy, the Central Library associated with some library and information divisions of the institutes have held some book exhibitions and compiled special bibliographies. In the areas of interlibrary lending cooperation, duplication, and reference services, the Central Library is responsible for this kind of collaboration. A conclusion was drawn from our practice that, in order to promote the cooperation and coordination, we must treat and consider the System as a whole, firstly by a central and general planning followed by group the cooper-

ation and coordination, that is start with the programs which will be at last beneficial to all participants.

4. To promote the standardization of professional management and technical services

The standardization of the library and information services is the basis for modernization and sharing resources. Since 1950's, we have tried in ways to unifying the professional management by compiling such works as: "The Classification Schedule of the Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences", "The Cataloging Rules for Books in Western Languages", "The Cataloging Rules for Books in Russian", "Filing Rules", and "The Rules and Regulations for Research Libraries" etc. Those rules and regulations have played a great role for unifying the library and information system of the Academy.

Some seminars were irregularly sponsored by the Central Library and regional libraries, participated by the library and information divisions of affiliated institutes; and some of libraries out of the Academy were invited to discuss problems of common interest as the booklets handling, distinguishing books from serials and the statistical standards for publications. According to the conclusion of such discussions, some unified standards could be drafted and accepted by all the particapants.

We also invited some sophisticated specialists to take an active part in the works of national and international literatures standardization in the fields of bibliographical description, subject headings and terminologies. While constitute and practise the unification of the vocational management and technical services, through our experience we should emphasize the feasibility of the scientific standards, not only conform them to the internationality however actual conditions of various participants should be considered on accounts of their

characteristic historical background.

5. To prepare for the modernization of techniques for the library and information services

Modernization of the techniques for library and information services is an important way to establish a library and information system and improving its efficiency. Since 1976, the Central Library in cooperation with the Computer Technology Institute of the Academy has started a programme learning by using computers to improve the library and information services, and also has trained some personnels in this field. The Library is now experimenting on the SDI services. Some of the regional libraries and library and information divisions of different institutes with the help of many scientists have also set up their own databases and started the trials in automation of management. In compliance with the need of using computer for retrieval and management, some affiliated units attempted the standardization of bibliographical description and subject headings, data gathering and hoped to organize themselves for drawing up an unified program, sharing this job and work together. In addition, the research and development of the use and management of microform technology and audio-visual materials should not be overlooked.

6. Investigation on the theoretical methodology of library and information services

For improving the quality of the library and information services and promoting the development of the System, studies of the theoretical methodology ought go ahead of their applications. To enliven the learned activities of the Academy, the Central Library has edited some serial publications: "Library and Information Service", "Trend in Library and Information Service", "Translated Collections of Library and Information Science" as the bases for the exchange of experiences and knowledge. In addition, a reference room of library and information

science is ready for exhibition and providing the related materials to the affiliated units. Under the leadership of the Academy, the First and Second Symposium of Library and Information Science were held in 1979,1980, and over 700 participants from both in and out of the Academy had attended these meetings. There were more than 400 recommanded papers received, some of them dealt with the theoretical problems of library and information science; such as the concept of information, the relationship between information science and science of science, the status and function of the library and information service; some of the papers in the light of their own practice, discussed the orientation and work of information research and surveyed the system of bibliographical service of the Academy. We had published two collections in 1979 and 1980 under the title of "Proceedings of the Symposium of Library and Information Science of the Chinese Academy of Sciences" consisting of selected papers from the above mentioned two meetings. These meetings had contributed a great deal for enlivening the research activities in the library and information science of the Academy. We have learned by experience while carrying out the academic research, we should stress the importance of theoretical methodology, select proper subjects, organize the research teams and provide the bases for exchanging knowledge and getting reference materials.

7. Training of librarianship

The training of librarianship is the corner stone which can develop and improve the library and information services. While founding the System, the Central Library had paid more emphases upon it. We had started a Department of Information and opened special courses of library science in cooperation with the University of Science and Technology of China. We also held many kinds of training courses, seminars and symposiums for our staffs at different levels. It's also a good way for improving the professional competence in compliance with compilation of teaching materials and adopt the special tutoring

method. For running the advanced studies class, the Central Library organized a group of experienced staffs had compiled a set of textbooks under the collective title: "A Text of Library and Information Services of the Chinese Academy of Sciences" which contains 13 sections of 2 thousand pages, "An Introduction to Library and Information Service", "Acquisition of Materials", "Serials", "Classification", "Cataloging of Chinese and Japanese Monographs", "Cataloging of Western Languages Materials", "Cataloging of Russian Language Materials", "Use of Reference Books", "Literature Duplication", "Information Research", and "Computer Based Library and Information System". In compiling these textbooks, the authors had widened their horizon, enriched their knowledge, in consequence, their practical experiences were systematized and theorized.

Moreover, all the units affiliated to the System have been run many kinds of training courses of foreign languages and forums of sciences. In cooperation with Computers Technology Institute of the Academy and the Library Science Department of the Beijing University, the Central Library has trained some postgraduates those would become the taskforce for the computer based information retrieval and automatic management. To satisfy the need of personnels, some of the affiliated units have sent people to universities, graduate institutes or abroad for their further training. They encourage their staffs to improve vocational competence by studying at the evening universities, correspondence schools and by self-study. In general, all the units pay more attention to their staffs training. It was learnt through many years of experiences that, in order to accomplish these we must unify the program and train staffs under a definite direction by normal education, in service training and sparetime education, in addition to the establishment of examination system and professional standards for staffs at all levels.

The library and information system of the Academy after thirty years though has been preliminarily established, there remains many weakness in the links of the layout and organization, in general, of the system, also including the general management and efficiency, therefore, there is quite a big gap in front of us to satisfy the needs of the scientific and technological research. We must make every effort to learn the advanced and strong points in library and information services from our own people as well as from abroad, thus to improve the whole system in organization and efficiency. We are determined to make great contributions to the four modernizations of China.